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TENSIONS MOUNT

Blasts crossed all red lines: Hezbollah chief

WORLD » PAGE 18

HARAPPAN EXPLORATION

One century on, a civilisation continues to baffle scholars

NEWS » PAGE 15

TELECOM AGR DUES

SC dismisses plea on computation 'errors'

BUSINESS » PAGE 17

PARLEY

Should children be barred from social media?

Australia's plan to set age bar triggers debate

OPINION » PAGE 13

HOMETOWN HERO

Ashwin's unbeaten ton takes India to safety

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Over 5,000 plaints against auto drivers this year

BENGALURU
In 2024, until July 31, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have booked 2,586 complaints against auto drivers for refusing to go on hire and 2,582 complaints for demanding excess fare. This is higher than the number of cases booked for these violations in the 12 months in 2022 and 2023. » Page 2

Uniform entrance test to he held for pvt. quota seats

BENGALURU
Private universities have agreed to the government's proposal to fill private quota seats in professional courses, including engineering, through a uniform entrance test.
» Page 3

Fire breaks out at ICU of Ramaiah Hospital

BENGALURU
There was panic after an accidental fire broke out at the cardiac intensive care unit of M.S. Ramaiah Hospital here on Thursday. No major casualties were reported, a police officer said. » Page 3

Kalasa-Banduri: CM writes to PM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide necessary clearance from the NBWL to expedite the execution of the Kalasa-Banduri Nala Diversion Project.
» Page 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Doctors call off strike after Bengal govt. lists reforms

They say they will join emergency services in State-run health facilities starting tomorrow; the campaign for safety measures will go on; Abhaya Clinic for flood-affected people will be set up

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Protesting resident doctors in West Bengal on Thursday decided to call off their agitation outside Swasthya Bhawan and announced that they will join emergency services in the State-run health facilities from Saturday.

Thousands of junior doctors have been on a strike for nearly 40 days since the body of a doctor was found inside the seminar hall of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The decision by the protesting doctors to call off the cease-work came hours after the West Bengal government issued a list of directives for ensuring safety, security and efficient functioning of all health care professionals in the State.

Back to work: A view of the protest venue in Kolkata on Thursday night after the doctors called off their strike. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to a representative of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front, the doctors will take out a procession from Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of State Health Department, to the Central Government Officers (CGO) complex, where the office of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is located, on Friday.

"We have been raising the demand of safety and security in the State-run hospitals because we did not want another incident to occur like the one that happened to Abhaya. Our demands are not for a union or organisation. What happened to her was an institutional murder," said Aniket Mahato, one of the representatives of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front.

Referring to the ongoing flood situation in the State, Dr. Mahato said doctors would resume emergency services from Saturday. The doctor said an Abhaya Clinic for flood-affected people would be set up. "We want to remind the government that our fight will go on till the safety and security reforms are completely ensured. The government should not think that the movement has stopped," he said.

The development comes a day after doctors under the banner of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front met State's Chief Secretary Manoj Pant.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

PM Narendra Modi speaking in Srinagar. IMRAN NISSAR

'People of J&K have written a new chapter'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Praising voters for the huge turnout in the first phase of the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that they had written a new chapter of history. He also reiterated his promise to restore Statehood. "The world is witnessing how the people of J&K are strengthening the Indian democracy," he said.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 15

'Land mafia' torches at least 34 houses in Bihar's Dalit hamlet

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A Dalit hamlet was attacked Wednesday night, and at least 34 houses were set on fire by alleged land mafia at Krishna Nagar village under Mufassil Police station in Bihar's Nawada district.

Villagers said that the land mafia, who numbered in the dozens, allegedly fired several rounds.

There is panic among the people living in the village and police are continuously conducting raids to nab the culprits. So far 15 people have been arrested by the police.

On Thursday, the Nawada police issued a press statement saying the homes of 34 families were burnt, 21 completely and 13 partially, by miscreants and there was no report of any casualty.

Till Wednesday night 11 people were arrested, including the main accused Nandu Paswan; by Thursday morning four more people had been arrested.

Remnants of houses that were burnt down in Bihar's Nawada district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Most of the people living in this village hail from the Manjhi community.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
JUNGLE RAJ: CONGRESS
» PAGE 16

India terms Pannun case baseless after U.S. court issues summons

Suhasini Haidar
Sriram Lakshman
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON DC

Reacting to a U.S. court summons of Indian citizens, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel and others, connected to a complaint lodged by India-banned Khalistani group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the case was based on "unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations".

Mr. Pannun filed a civil case earlier this week against the Government of India, Mr. Doval, Mr. Goel, Vikram Yadav, Nikhil Gupta who is in jail in New York, and others. The defendants are required, as per the court, to respond to the September 18 summons with 21 days.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

"We have taken certain action, and the allegations are being inquired into by a high-level committee and the relevant agencies on both sides have engaged on this," said Mr. Misri on India-U.S. discussions around charges issued by the U.S. Department of Justice in November 2023.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Munirathna gets bail, but faces a new case of rape against him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The special court of people's representatives on Thursday granted bail to Rajarajeshwarinagar MLA Munirathna, who had been arrested for threatening a BBMP contractor, demanding bribe, and using casteist slurs.

He was released on a bond of ₹2 lakh with two sureties and under strict instructions not to destroy evidence, threaten witnesses or interfere in the investigation.

However, Mr. Munirathna, who is lodged in the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara here, now faces a new case of rape, threat and honey trap filed by a social activist against him. This is the third FIR filed against him in recent months.

Munirathna, BJP MLA for Rajarajeshwarinagar.

A rape case was registered against the legislator at Kaggaliapura police station in Ramanagara district.

The incident allegedly took place at a private resort within the jurisdiction of the Kaggaliapura police station where the FIR has been filed and is being investigated.

The FIR has been filed against Mr. Munirathna and six others for allegedly recording private videos to honey-trap and blackmail a 40-year-old social worker for many years.

Mr. Munirathna was recently arrested and remanded in judicial custody after two FIRs were registered against him on the charges of criminal intimidation, corruption, and hurling casteist slurs.

A day after the third FIR, a police team conducted a spot inspection at a godown at J.P. Park where the alleged crime took place. The police also recorded the statement of the victim.

The victim alleged that Mr. Munirathna raped her multiple times between 2020 and 2022 and threatened and blackmailed her to honey-trap others . Six more people, identified as Vijay Kumar, Sudhakar, Kiran Kumar, Lohith Gowda, Manjunatha, and Loki, have been named in the FIR for assisting Mr. Munirathna's alleged criminal conspiracies.

Based on the complaint, the police charged the accused under 376 (rape), 354 (sexual harassment), 354(C) (voyeurism), 506 (criminal intimidation), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 120(B) (criminal conspiracy), 149 (every member of an unlawful assembly guilty of an offence committed in prosecution of a common object), 384 (extortion), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and the IT Act in the FIR.

According to the FIR, Mr. Munirathna learnt about the victim through her social work and contacted her via WhatsApp in 2020.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Trump not on travel plan, clarifies MEA

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

No meeting has been fixed with former United States President Donald Trump so far, the government said on Thursday, a day after Mr. Trump told a campaign rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "coming to meet" him next week.

Briefing the media on Mr. Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S. from September 21-23, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the Prime Minister would hold separate meetings with U.S. President Joseph Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian PM Anthony Albanese in Wilmington, where he will arrive on Saturday for the Quad summit.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 14

Only e-khatas for properties in Bengaluru from this month-end

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Starting September 30, physical khatas will be phased out as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) launches its digital e-khata issuance system.

The civic body has digitised around 21 lakh property records in Bengaluru to implement a fully online, faceless, and contactless e-khata system. Currently, property records are maintained manually in over 5,500 ledgers. The digitisation process began in 2023 following directives from Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The BBMP has digitised around 21 lakh property records in Bengaluru to implement a fully online, faceless, and contactless e-khata system. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Under the new system, BBMP staff will visit properties to capture GPS coordinates, which are mandatory for obtaining the BBMP e-khata. Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner of the BBMP, stated in a release, "The GPS coordinates will serve as the unique identifier for your property and are essential for the faceless, contactless online delivery of all BBMP e-khata services."

Mr. Giri Nath urged Bengaluru residents to cooperate with civic staff during property visits. Officials noted that this initiative aims to reduce bureaucracy and corruption in khata issuance, while also boosting property tax revenue.

Now, Governor seeks report on works taken up by MUDA on CM's 'oral instructions'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has sought a report from the State government on a complaint that the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) had taken up works amounting to ₹387 crore in violation of rules in Varuna and Srirangapatna Assembly constituencies, allegedly on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's oral instructions.

The Governor's letter dated September 5, 2024 to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has cited an August 27, 2024, representation submitted to him by P.S. Nataraj from Mysuru, alleging that these works had been taken up by MUDA in violation of Section 15 and 25 of the Karnataka Urban Development Authority Act, 1987.

Mr. Gehlot's letter comes close on the heels of his decision to accord sanction for an investigation against the Chief Minister over the allotment of multiple sites by MUDA to Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, under the 50:50 scheme.

The Karnataka High Court has completed the hearing on a petition filed by Mr. Siddaramaiah challenging the legality of the Governor's order for investigation against him in the MUDA site allotment case and has reserved its orders.

The works referred to in Mr. Nataraj's complaint had been taken up in Varuna constituency, represented by Mr. Siddaramaiah himself, and the adjoining Srirangapatna constituency in neighbouring Mandya district, represented by Congress leader Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda. In his complaint, Mr. Nataraj, a retired MUDA employee, alleged a decision in this regard had been taken despite non-availability of funds with the authority. Alleging that MUDA had misused its power, he urged the Governor that a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation be conducted into it.

"Since the allegation is serious, it is directed to look into the matter and submit the detailed report along with documents at the earliest," the Governor said in his letter to the Chief Secretary.

Bheke 'ready to make good memories again' at his home away from home

"Right through my career, my mentality is that I have to be physically fit and available to play each and every game of the season. As for my preferred position, everything depends on what the coach wants. Centre back, right back, left back — I'm ready for any challenge," says the India captain who is raring to go once more with 'The Blues'

GETTY IMAGES

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC's Indian Super League (ISL) opener against East Bengal at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium last weekend marked the return of Rahul Bheke to 'The Blues'. The experienced Bheke was typically solid in defence, helping BFC keep a clean slate in a 1-0 win over the Kolkata rival. On Thursday, Bheke found the target against Hyderabad FC at home to make his return all the more memorable.

This is Bheke's second stint at BFC, having spent four seasons from 2017 to 2021.

He established himself as a fan favourite, especially so after scoring the deciding goal in the 117th minute of the 2018-19 ISL final against FC Goa.

After parting ways with BFC in 2021, Bheke added more highlights to his resume by moving to his hometown club, Mumbai City FC. He won the ISL Shield and the ISL Cup with the Islanders, and also featured in the 2022 AFC Champions League.

In the recent Intercontinental Cup held at Hyderabad, the 33-year-old was honoured to receive the India captaincy for the first time. India did not perform well in the tournament, finishing last among the three teams in the field. But for Bheke, wearing the captain's armband was reward for years of consistent returns.

Bheke's journey started in the youth ranks of Mahindra United, before progressing through Air India, Mumbai FC and Mumbai Tigers.

Incidentally, Bheke scored his first professional goal, for Mumbai FC against BFC in an I-League encounter in 2015 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

Bheke suffered a setback when he went unsigned in the 2015 Indian Super League domestic draft. Kerala Blasters, however, gave him a big break with a pre-season deal.

Bheke's career went from strength to strength from here, all the way to the top of the national team.

"I was deeply honoured to become the India captain. It was a proud moment for me and my family. It is a privilege to lead the Indian team," Bheke, who has earned 31 international caps, said in a press conference in Bengaluru.

Bheke, who made his India debut under then-head coach Igor Stimac in the 2019 King's Cup, added, "This was my first time as captain. I've been with the national team for a long time, and finally I got my opportunity."

Bheke has plenty of work to do at BFC, which finished the 2023-24 ISL season in a lowly 10th spot. Bheke, alongside five other new signings, is tasked with forcing a turnaround in fortunes.

"The timing of the India captaincy is great, as this is the start of the new club season. We had a great pre-season, and we had a couple of good games in the Durand Cup. To come back here from the national team is good motivation to perform for this club," Bheke, who is with BFC on a two-year deal, said.

Bheke is reunited with BFC Head Coach Gerard Zaragoza. The Spanish manager has good memories of training Bheke when he was Carles Cuadrat's assistant coach here in the 2018-19 season. Zaragoza believes that a strong team consists of strong leaders, which fits Bheke's profile well. "To have Rahul here means a lot to the team. I remember when I was here in 2019, Rahul was one of the leaders of that team. Every team needs players who are leaders both on and off the field. Rahul is someone who always sits with youngsters at lunch and dinner. He is always talking to them, and giving them good inputs. His presence in the dressing room is important," Zaragoza said.

"When our club told me that Rahul was available, I was immediately interested. It is a huge loss for Mumbai FC. We're happy to have him here," Zaragoza explained.

Having a versatile player like Bheke on board gives Zaragoza the chance to focus more on attacking options. "Rahul fits well with our club philosophy of controlling the game at all times," Zaragoza said.

Bheke stated that is ready to play in any position. "Right through my career, my mentality is that I have to be physically fit and available to play each and every game of the season. As for my preferred position, everything depends on what the coach wants. Centre back, right back, left back – I'm ready for any challenge," Bheke said.

For Bheke, the Sree Kanteerava Stadium and BFC feels like home. "When I play in Bengaluru, it feels very special. I played my first ever AFC Cup right here in the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in 2017. I've won the ISL and India Super Cup titles with BFC.

"I have shared special moments with the coaches, players, fans and the city of Bengaluru. Coming back here was not a tough decision for me.

"These are the best fans in the country, and I am ready to make good memories again," Bheke said.

THE GIST

- Bheke earlier spent four seasons at BFC, from 2017 to 2021
- Bheke is reunited with Coach Zaragoza — the Spanish manager has good memories of training him when he was Carles Cuadrat's assistant coach here in the 2018-19 season
- Bheke, alongside five other new signings, is now tasked with forcing a turnaround in fortunes for BFC, which finished 10th last ISL season

Playing Nadal is 'kind of a nightmare', says Alcaraz

GETTY IMAGES

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Carlos Alcaraz has admitted to being starstruck when he first faced Rafael Nadal, saying that facing the 22-time Grand Slam champion was "kind of a nightmare".

Speaking in Berlin on Thursday ahead of the Laver Cup, the 21-year-old Alcaraz reflected on his on-court battles with fellow Spaniard Nadal.

'Huge' moment

"It was a huge thing when I played him for the first time," said the World No. 3. "The other times for me were kind of a nightmare."

Alcaraz already has four Grand Slam titles, winning his first at the 2022 US Open in the same year Nadal won his most recent major at the French Open.

Nadal, 38, was set to take the court alongside Alcaraz in Berlin, but pulled out due to his continued struggles with injury.

"Playing against Rafa is always tough. Every time for me it was a privilege to share the court," added Alcaraz.

"Every time I faced him, I tried to be a good enough player to beat him."

Set to continue

There was speculation Nadal may retire from the sport at the Laver Cup, as great rival Roger Federer had done two years ago, but he is set to continue.

Alcaraz will play doubles alongside German Alexander Zverev for Team Europe at the tournament, with their first clash coming against Americans Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton for Team World.

Preparing to play on home soil, Zverev said of Alcaraz: "It's a privilege to share the court with a legend of our sport already."

The two have clashed three times in 2024, including in the French Open final, which Alcaraz won in five sets.

"I think it's amazing to hear my teammates call me a tennis legend, but I try not to think about it," said Alcaraz.

"Above all, what makes you a legend in tennis is what you contribute to the sport and how you try and take tennis to the top, to be heard in every corner of the world.

"To attract the largest possible audience, to people who have never seen tennis in their lives, thanks to you they watch it on TV or start to play, that makes you a legend, apart from the tournaments you have won and the success you have."

Team Europe won the first four Laver Cups, starting in 2017, but Team World have won the past two.

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*The limited period offer illustrative Exchange Effective prices are computed on the MRP ₹79900.00 (incl. of all taxes) of iPhone 16, 128 GB, (15.54 cm, 1 N) and on the MRP ₹89900.00 (incl. of all taxes) of iPhone 16 Plus, 128 GB, (17.00 cm, 1 N) and reduced by ₹5000.00 Instant Cashback, which is valid exclusively on ICICI Bank Credit Card, Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card and SBI Credit Card (Non-EMI and EMI) & on ICICI Bank Debit Card (EMI only) and further reduced by exchange value of ₹20000.00 of iPhone 13, 128 GB (15.40 cm, 1 N) in a good working condition along with ₹6000.00 Exchange Bonus.The applicable Instant Cashback offer is valid for transactions made using Brand EMI option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals and applicable on select online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. No Cost EMI on cards for up to 6 months tenure is available on ICICI Bank Credit Card, Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card, SBI Credit Card & ICICI Bank Debit Card EMI transactions. Low-Cost EMI is also available on tenures greater than 6 months. The above illustrative consumer loan offer of EMI of ₹3329.00 p.m. is computed on No Cost EMI of up to 24 months available from Bajaj Finance Ltd, HDFC Bank, HDB Financial services, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and TVS Credit and is calculated on the MRP 79900.00 (inclusive of all taxes) for iPhone 16 (15.54 cm, 1N) 128 GB. 33% down payment is required to avail the above illustrated consumer loan offer from Bajaj Finance Ltd. 0 down payment offer is also available from other financiers. The consumer loan approval from the financier is at their sole discretion. EMIs illustrated above are rounded off to the nearest rupee for ease of reference. The offer is provided as No Cost EMI i.e. the benefit of No Cost EMI as a total applicable interest to be charged by financier on consumer loan or by bank on card EMI transactions for original tenure will be borne by Apple Authorised Distributors. Processing fee is applicable and will be charged to customer as per Financier's or Bank's terms and conditions. Goods and Services Tax will be applicable on processing fee, interest component and foreclosure charges, as applicable. Customer may be required to enter into separate agreements or arrangements (by whatever name called) with the financier to avail or use the EMI facility. Customers are advised to read the offer/agreement terms and conditions carefully. *The Exchange Bonus of up to ₹6000.00 is exclusively provided by the Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers Cashify and Servify at select participating stores in association with participating resellers at their sole discretion. Exchange Bonus is valid only for transactions involving Trade-in of customer's eligible old devices valued at least ₹3000.00 or above. Customer's eligible old devices valued between ₹3000.00 and ₹10000.00 will receive an Exchange Bonus of ₹3000.00 and customer's eligible devices valued between ₹10000.00 and ₹15000.00 will receive an Exchange Bonus of ₹4000.00 and customer's eligible devices valued above ₹15000.00 will receive an Exchange Bonus of ₹6000.00. The Exchange Bonus and Trade-in value will be passed on as a credit or discount in the customer's invoice. Customer's eligible old device trade-in value as diagnosed and assessed by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will be the final offer. Any other T&C's as specified by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will apply. The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select participating Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to IndiaiStore.com. All trademarks, logos and brand names are the property of their respective owners. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2024 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

BTP book over 5,000 complaints against auto drivers this year

Officials say the increase in the number of cases is linked to regular enforcement campaigns

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

If there is one tussle that is constant in Bengaluru, it is between autorickshaw drivers and their passengers. Every day on the internet, at least one or two people are complaining about being asked for extra money by auto drivers. The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) reportedly get 20-25 calls daily on their hotline for autorickshaw complaints.

In 2024, until July 31, BTP has booked 2,586 complaints against auto drivers for refusing to go on hire and 2,582 complaints for demanding excess fare. This is higher than the number of cases booked against these violations in the 12 months in 2022 and 2023.

While the traffic police booked 2,183 cases for refusing to go on hire and 2,179 cases against a demand for excess fare in 2022, they booked 1,537 and 1,599 cases respectively in 2023.

BTP officials attribute the increase in the number of cases in 2024 to frequent crackdowns on autorickshaw drivers.

Traffic police conducting vehicle checks at Sheshadripuram in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Special drive

"Every day we conduct one or the other special drive and most of those have been against auto drivers this year as we received a lot of complaints from the public. The drives were conducted in places where there is a high footfall of people like metro stations, railway stations, malls, and hospitals. We have decoys who ask auto drivers for a ride and when they refuse or demand extra fare, we book a case against them," M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru told *The Hindu*.

He also said there had been an increase in the public reporting of cases. However, not all of these are formal complaints and sometimes citizens only give them the registration numbers of the auto rickshaws and the police take necessary action. "We also receive complaints on 112 now. We want the public to know that they can report their grievances against auto rickshaw drivers on 112 also," Mr. Anucheth said.

Autorickshaw drivers, on the other hand, say that with inflation, it is becoming impossible for them to provide rides without demanding more money.

"After changing meter fares in 2013, they did not revise it until 2021. In many other districts, both within and outside of the State, meter fares are revised regularly. But in Bengaluru, that is not the case," said Rudramurthy, general secretary of Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU).

"A decade ago, the price of an auto rickshaw was ₹1.5 lakh, today it is ₹3 lakh. The prices of spare parts have skyrocketed and just on Wednesday, gas prices increased by ₹2 per litre. If meter fares are revised regularly, then autorickshaw drivers would also not demand fares over and above the meter. Nobody is taking a solution-based approach to our problems," he added.

Prepaid auto counters

BTP has 18 prepaid autorickshaw counters set up across the city, of which 17 are currently functional (the counter near East Railway Station is being relocated). Overall, 1,000-1,500 rides are booked through these counters in a day

However, passengers feel that with many of these counters being closed by 10 p.m., they are at the mercy of exorbitant prices quoted by the auto drivers in the night hours.

"We are aware that the law permits them to charge 1.5x fare after 10 p.m., but the drivers demand double or triple the actual fare, especially in prime locations like M.G. Road. Even on weekends, the prepaid auto counter there will be closed by 10 p.m. or 10.30 p.m. and we are forced to wait for a long duration to catch a ride on one of the aggregator apps," said Niharika. S., an engineer from Kalyan Nagar.

BTP officials said that with the force operating with high vacancies, it gets difficult to run the counters late in the night.

"Some of our counters do operate until late in the night, especially during the weekends. On other days, it depends on how many people we are operating with," Mr. Anucheth further said.

Traffic police hold meeting with IT park heads for mobility planning

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To better manage traffic and predict and plan for future trends in and around the tech parks of Outer Ring Road (ORR), Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Traffic, East Division Kuldeep Kumar Jain held a meeting with IT Tech Park heads, IT–BT companies' transport in-charge personnel, and security and facilities managers in Mahadevapura Traffic Police station on Thursday.

After the infamous traffic incident on ORR on September 27, 2023, when thousands of motorists were stuck for hours, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have been working with tech parks to prevent such incidents from recurring. Under this, they had sought entry and exit data of vehicles from tech parks.

"This data was not coming to us on time and regularly from some companies. We wanted to tell them how it helps us make decisions on the road and projections for the future. We also asked them to install an automatic vehicle counting system near their entry gates which can supply us with vehicular data every 15 minutes," Mr. Jain said speaking about the agenda of the meeting.

He added that officials from Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) were also asked to attend the meeting to promote public transport options.

"While asking BMTC to provide adequate feeder services, we also suggested that companies can devise policies to incentivise public transport usage. Some tech parks asked BMRCL for exclusive entries and some for common walkways from the metro stations to the tech parks," he said.

According to the available data, Mr. Jain said that at around 1 p.m., at least 80,000-1,10,000 vehicles are stationed in and around tech parks between Silk Board and K.R. Puram.

"With such meetings, our focus is on providing easy mobility and be prepared for future decision making."

Kempanna, who exposed commission culture in govt., dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D. Kempanna, 84, President of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association – who was at the forefront of the association's fight againt the '40% commission' scam by the previous BJP government – passed away after a heart attack at 10 a.m. on Thursday, at his residence in Jyotipura, Bengaluru.

He had recently returned home after receiving treatment at a private hospital.

The deceased is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

Family sources said that arrangements have been made for final rites at his residence, and the funeral will be held at Jyotipura on September 20 around 3 p.m. or 4 p.m.

"Due to age-related ailments, Kempanna had restricted his movements outside for the last two or three months. However, he actively participated in the association's work.

On September 18, he also participated in the general body meeting of the association through video conference. However, he died of a heart attack on Thursday morning," said G.M. Ravindra, secretary of the association.

Crusade against corruption

Kempanna was known for raising his voice on behalf of the contractors.

Pointing to corruption in various government departments, he had alleged that officials had been demanding kickbacks for awarding contracts and clearing the bills during the BJP tenure.

He had submitted a 6,000-page dossier detailing the corruption to the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission, which was probing the allegations.

D. Kempanna

In February 2024, he had alleged that the "kickbacks culture" had not ended even after the Congress government had assumed power.

CM condoles death

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, whose Congress party used the '40% commission' issue as a major poll plank against BJP during the 2023 Assembly elections, took to X to express his grief.

"Saddened by the death of Kempanna, President of the State Contractors' Association. He had brought out the 40% commission scam that had made headlines across the country during the previous government's tenure, and had taken a stand against corruption in contract works.

"Today, the country has lost a fearless voice that did not succumb to any pressure or temptation. I pray that his departed soul may rest in peace and his family find strength to bear this pain," the Chief Minister wrote.

Deaf artists to showcase work at CKP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eight deaf artists will showcase their work at an art exhibition at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. Titled "Beyond Signs: The Power of Gesture," the event aims to explore the role of gestures in communication and promote inclusivity through Indian Sign Language. The exhibition will run from Friday to Sunday.

Organised by EnAble India in collaboration with the Museum of Art and Photography, the interactive show will highlight the importance of gestures in everyday communication. Visitors will also have the opportunity to learn the basics of ISL through various tools provided at the event. The opening night will honour Madan Vasistha, a prominent advocate for Indian Sign Language.

A unique event called the "ISL Jam" will take place on Friday evening at the Museum of Art and Photography.

The event is being held in connection with the United Nations-recognised International Day of Sign Languages, celebrated on September 23. The exhibition is open to all. For more information, visit www.freedomtosign.com.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 9

Forest Dept.'s task force continues search for leopard spotted in Electronics City recently

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Forest Department's leopard task force is attempting to trace and capture a leopard which was reportedly spotted near a toll plaza in Electronics City recently.

Assistant Conservator of Forest, Bengaluru South, V. Ganesh told *The Hindu* on Thursday that task force personnel have been deployed in the vicinity where the leopard was sighted on September 17.

CCTV footage had reportedly captured a leopard crossing a flyover near the toll plaza in the early hours of that day. However, since then there has been no sighting of the big cat. "Our task force is carrying out the search. But there has been no fresh sighting of the leopard either by our team or by the camera traps," Mr. Ganesh said. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bengaluru Urban, N. Ravindra Kumar had said that there is no confirmation of the leopard being spotted.

"A video has been doing rounds that a leopard was spotted in Electronics city and that CCTV images had captured its movements. But there is no confirmation on it," Mr. Kumar had said. Prior to this incident, on September 2, another leopard was spotted by residents of BSR Layout in Kyalasanahalli near Jigani.

In the wake of repeated sightings of leopards in residential areas, the Forest Department has set up a dedicated rapid-response leopard task force.

Nipah death in Kerala: State Health Dept. on high alert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the death of a Bengaluru student in Kerala, which was recently confirmed to be due to the Nipah virus, Karnataka's Health Ddepartment is on high alert.

While 41 contacts of the deceased 24-year-old postgraduate student of psychology at an institute in Bengaluru are under quarantine, officials said there is no need to panic as no case of Nipah has been reported in the State so far.

The student, who hailed from Thiruvali gram panchayat, Malappuram in Kerala, had returned to his hometown on August 25 following an injury. He developed fever on September 5 and sought treatment at a local clinic. His condition deteriorated further and he showed signs of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) with Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) at a medical college hospital in Kerala, following which he passed away on September 8.

A team from the Karnataka Health Department's disease surveillance unit visited the institute and verified that 32 students and staff attended the funeral. Three students had reportedly visited the deceased when he was hospitalised. "Currently, there are 41 contacts (primary and secondary) who are under isolation. New contacts are being notified. One primary contact who had symptoms is stable and under close watch,," said an official release.

From Page One

Munirathna gets bail, but faces a new case of rape against him

A few days later, Mr. Munirathna met her in person near Muthyalanagar in north Bengaluru and befriended her.

According to the FIR, Mr. Munirathna allegedly asked the victim to strip on a video call, but the latter refused to do it.

A few days later, he called the victim to his godown at Muthyalanagar, where he allegedly raped her. He also allegedly threatened to foist a false case against her if she refused to compromise.

According to the FIR, Mr. Munirathna threatened her with the videos and coaxed her into helping him honey-trap the husband of a former councillor.

She claimed that he directed her to honey-trap the ex-councillor's son as well, but she refused to do so and went incommunicado.

Further, Mr. Munirathna allegedly threatened her into making explicit videos of a leader from his rival party during the elections and used it to threaten him.

He also made similar videos of police officers and blackmailed them, according to the victim.

CSB completes 75 years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Silk Board (CSB) will hold a stakeholders' meeting of those engaged in the sericulture sector on Saturday in Bengaluru to mark its platinum jubilee celebrations.

Announcing this at a press conference here on Wednesday, CSB Member-Secretary P. Sivakumar said Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh would inaugurate the event that would have technical sessions on the National Silk Policy and other core topics related to sericulture.

The event will be held on the GKVK campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru.

Along with sericulture stakeholders, heads of sericulture departments from all over the country, policymakers and planners, scientists, and technical experts from 26 States/UTs would participate in the meet, he said.

The event would see the release of various technologies, mulberry varieties, and silkworm hybrids, he said. The meeting would also showcase the board's contribution to the silk industry besides strategic discussions with stakeholders, he said. Mr. Giriraj Singh would visit the Central Silk Board's office here on Thursday as part of the platinum jubilee celebrations.

Prior to stakeholders' meet, the CSB would hold a programme in Mysuru on Friday to mark the beginning of the platinum jubilee in which about 1,000 farmers are expected to participate. Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy will address researchers and farmers at this programme.

Special cover released

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark the birth centenary of renowned south Indian film music director Vijay Bhaskar, the India Post on Thursday released a special cover that will be available for sale at philatelic bureaus such as Bengaluru GPO, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Belagavi Head Post offices.

Rajendra Kumar S., Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, released the cover in the presence of Mangala Gowri and Sankari Ananth, daughters of the late Vijay Bhaskar at the Bengaluru General Post Office.

To mark the anniversary, a seminar on Vijay Bhaskar's contributions will be held on October 20, at Sangeet Sabha in Indiranagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.K.Ravi S/o Late Kuppaswamy** to bring the notice of the general public that the Page Nos.8 & 9 of Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc No.7704/2003-04 of Book-I, dated.04.06.2003 executed by **Smt. Rangamma** w/o Sri.Hombaiah rep by her GPA holder **Sri.H.V.Prakash S/o Sri.H.V.Venkata Ramaiah** in favour of Sri.K.Ravi S/o Late Kuppaswamy, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **House No.49,** Katha No.285 in assessment No.11, situated at **Herohalli Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, total measuring **1200 Sq.ft.**,& bounded on :

East by : Site No.64, West by : 30 feet Road, North by : Site No.48, South by : Site No.50.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 26 UBL 2024-25
Dated: 11.09.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division:** Renewal of check rail on sharp curves, Level Crossings and renewal of guard rails on major Bridges in Hospete - Vyasa Colony - Swamihalli (HPT-VC-SMLI) Section.	Rs. 38,72,107.90
2	**Hubballi Division:** Under water inspection of bridges in Senior Divisional Engineer / West, Central & East Jurisdiction (No. of Bridges 5+2+1=8 Nos).	Rs. 23,94,280.00
3	**Hubballi Division:** Miscellaneous Maintenance activities for quarters and services building and area covered under Senior Engineer / Works / Dharwad Jurisdiction (Special Works-12).	Rs. 75,40,650.00

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 10.10.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination Hubballi

PUB/422/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property bearing old No.2, present No. 23 & 23/1, PID No. 77-109-23 and 77-109-23/1 measuring to an extent of 80 ft x 100 ft (Totally 8000 Square Feet) with a building standing thereon, situate at Devaraja Urs Road, Bengaluru more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property. The Schedule Property belongs to **(1) Mr. SHARDENDU MALPANI** and **(2) Mr. ANIRUDH MALPANI (Grandchildren of Ms. Bhagwani Devi Malpani). Ms. Bhagwani Devi Malpani, W/o Late. Prayag Chand Malpani** has passed away on 30.12.2019. **(1) Mr. Shardendu Malpani, S/o Mr. Arun Kumar Malpani** and **(2) Mr. Anirudh Malpani, S/o Mr. Arun Kumar Malpani,** had issued a public notice on 11.01.2024, which was published in Deccan Herald Newspaper regarding loss of original Document No. 75/ 1954-55,i.e., sale deed dated 12.04.1954 registered in Book I, Volume 1338 at Page No. 20 to 26 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru. The vendors of my client **(1) Mr. Shardendu Malpani and (2) Mr. Anirudh Malpani** are absolute owners in actual physical possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property.

Any person/s, Bank/s, Financial Institutions etc., claiming any valid right, title and/or interest or any claim over the schedule property or any portion of it under any agreement, mortgage, deed etc., or in any other manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objections/ claim within **7 days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned. If no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, my clients shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property on the basis that the vendors of my clients are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and that there are no claims of any whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing House No.23 & 23/1 (old no.2) PID No.77-109-23 & PID No.77-109-23/1, Situate at **Madhavanagar Main Road, Devaraju Urs Road, (Race Course Road), Bengaluru,** measuring 80x100 feet **(Totally measuring 8000 Square Feet)** along with building constructed thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Private Property, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : Private Property

NISHANTH .A.V Advocate
No.33, First Floor, North Park Road
Kumara Park East, Bengaluru - 560001
+91-9900112555

How Kerala reduced mortality from amoebic meningoencephalitis

Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis is caused by infection with *Naegleria fowleri,* a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba". This infection destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. PAM is rare and usually occurs in healthy children, teens, and young adults, and has a high fatality rate

C Maya

Children frolicking in neighbourhood ponds in the summer months is a common sight in Kerala, a State that has an abundance of water bodies. The summer this year, however, took all the pleasure out of the water games for children when many young children fell prey to a rare but lethal infection of the central nervous system, amoebic meningoencephalitis, caused by free-living amoebae (FLA) found in freshwater, lakes, and rivers.

Reassurances from public health experts that the infections were sporadic did nothing to ease public anxiety because of the frequency with which amoebic meningoencephalitis was being reported in the State from various districts. Most of the affected were young children from 5-15. This picture changed dramatically in the month of August when, quite unusually, an all-adult case cluster of amoebic meningoencephalitis – eight cases in all – was reported from Thiruvananthapuram.

But despite reporting an unusually high number of 19 cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis in five months, Kerala also managed to create medical history of sorts because it managed to save 14 out of the 19 cases, bringing down the mortality rate of amoebic encephalitis, from the global rate of 97% to 26%. On September 12, all 10 persons who were undergoing treatment for amoebic encephalitis at Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College hospital were discharged, having completed the 28-day treatment course of the State-adapted U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention treatment protocol .

"This is a unique feat for Kerala, which is sure to enter global literature on the disease. It was a huge learning experience in itself because we could show that if identified and treated early, we have a fighting chance to save patients with amoebic meningoencephalitis. The infection usually deteriorates so fast that there is no therapeutic window for clinicians to intervene, " says R. Aravind, head of Infectious Diseases at Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram.

When sporadic cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis began to be reported from North Kerala in May-June, all clinical features were suggestive of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), a disease caused usually by infection with Naegleria fowleri, a microscopic amoeba commonly called the "brain-eating amoeba." The State then set up an experts' group to bring out technical guidelines on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of amoebic meningoencephalitis.

A pond in Feroke, Kozhikode district which was closed after a 12-year-old boy who swam there was diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis recently. FILE PHOTO

What is PAM?

Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a disease caused usually by infection with *Naegleria fowleri,* a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba". This infection destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. PAM is rare and usually occurs in otherwise healthy children, teens, and young adults, and has a high fatality rate because of rapid onset and delayed diagnosis.

"Only 11 survivors of confirmed *N fowleri* PAM have been reported in medical literature until now. There is not much in the literature on amoebic encephalitis caused by FLA other than *N. fowleri*. Kerala has reported amoebic infections caused by *N. fowleri,* Vermamoeba vermiforis as well as Acanthamoeba. Though we do not have the genomic sequencing information on all cases, and are yet to confirm if all were cases of PAM were caused by *N. fowleri*, we just added 14 more persons to the list of survivors," Dr. Aravind says.

Unusual cases and case clusters

Kerala also reported an unusual case cluster of amoebic meningoencephalitis from Athiyannoor grama panchayat in Neyyattinkara taluk in Thiruvananthapuram. A detailed outbreak investigation, however revealed that it was not mere exposure to a mossy, green algae-ridden pond in the neighbourhood, but risky behaviour on the part of a group of youth that landed them all in the medical college hospital with the life-threatening amoebic encephalitis infection. Two weeks after the death of a youth from the locality following encephalitis, with a history of exposure to a stagnant water body, when

> Only 11 survivors of *N fowleri* PAM have been reported in medical literature. Though we do not have the complete genomic sequencing information on all cases we have added 14 more to the list of survivors
>
> **R. ARAVIND**
> Head of Infectious Diseases, Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram

a second case turned up from the same area, the health department was alerted to the unusual possibility that there could be a clustering of PAM cases. Health officials reported that youngsters in the locality were meeting by the pond, mixing tobacco, snuff, and other addictive substances with the water from the pond and then inhaling it using handmade contraption – almost akin to vaping. This was a particularly risky behaviour as it provides a direct entry for amoeba into the brain. With the help of the local body members, health officials managed to track all the youth in the locality who were known to be using snuff in this way. They were all asked to get admitted to the MCH as soon as they developed symptoms. Seven youths were thus picked up early and their CSF samples tested positive for amoebic encephalitis.

Clinicians also got to deal with a lone case wherein the patient was an urban dweller, with no contact with ponds of water bodies. The patient's history revealed that in his house, water from the well was pumped into the overhead tank and then redirected to the pipe system. The overhead tank had not been cleaned in ages, and thus it was possible that the water harboured amoeba. The patient also had a past history of a head injury, which meant that the cribriform plate may not have been intact, aiding the quick entry of amoeba into the brain during nasal ablution.

Aggressive treatment

The State set up a special medical board, and the patients were treated as per the protocol with a cocktail of antibiotics. What turned the tide in favour of the patients was the introduction of the drug Miltefosin into the antibiotic cocktail. Miltefosine is an anti-parasitic agent, but its use is rare now, and supply is also limited. Amphotericin B has been the mainstay of PAM treatment, but Miltefosine was one of the cocktail of drugs that seemed to give good results, and all of the well-documented PAM survivors across the globe have received it as part of their treatment regimen.

It was pro-active case-finding by clinicians – checking for the presence of amoeba in CSF samples whenever acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) cases were encountered – which threw up more cases. This high degree of clinical suspicion on encountering unusual cases of AES is being maintained by all clinicians in the State since its first Nipah encounter in 2018.

New learnings and precautions

With more amoebic encephalitis cases reported from multiple locations, one should assume that amoeba is present in most water bodies except in chlorinated water and that the increased environmental heat and other aquatic factors may be aiding the increase in its concentration. The focus of the State health department is now on creating IEC campaigns for the public, to narrow down possible risks and incorporating the new learnings that emerged from this intense encounter with amoebic encephalitis.

The precautions now specify that no one should dive headlong into water bodies and that it is safer to use nasal plugs while swimming. Persons who have had head injuries or nasal surgery in the past should absolutely stay away from entering stagnant water bodies. Under no circumstances should one snort water into the nose while washing one's face or when swimming in ponds. Those in the habit of sinus irrigatio should use sterilised water and not tap water.

The current directive to all clinicians is to take a close look at the CSF for the presence of amoeba in all cases of meningoencephalitis, irrespective of whether the patient has had direct or indirect contact with water bodies. This is because early diagnosis and treatment might be life-saving in an infection which is almost always fatal, a learning experience that has been unique to Kerala.

(maya.c@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

Most of the affected were children. This changed dramatically in August when, quite unusually, an all-adult case cluster of amoebic meningoencephalitis — eight cases in all — was reported from Thiruvananthapuram

There was a lone case of an urban dweller, with no contact with water bodies. Water at his home was souced from an overhead tank which had not been cleaned and probably harboured amoeba. The patient also had a previous head injury, aiding the entry of amoeba during nasal ablution

With more cases reported from multiple locations, one should assume that amoeba is present in most water bodies except in chlorinated water and that the increased environmental heat may be aiding the increase in concentration

HUMERUS

The true cost of hospital-acquired infections

Abdul Ghafur

A high-profile medicolegal case has emerged in Mumbai. An orthopaedic surgeon and a well-known hospital are facing litigation due to a post-operative infection following a knee replacement. The plaintiff, a professional with significant income, has claimed substantial losses due to months of inability to work, compounded by extensive treatment expenses.

Simultaneously, in Bangalore, a contrasting yet equally compelling situation unfolded. I was consulted by family of a patient who had been in the ICU for over two weeks on a ventilator. Unfortunately, the patient developed ventilator-associated Acinetobacter pneumonia – a serious Hospital-Acquired Infection (HAI). Despite the hospital's reputation for high standards of care, the family questioned why they should bear the burden for an infection acquired under hospital care. Their concerns were twofold: the ethical dilemma of the hospital allegedly benefiting from the extended treatment required for the HAI and the principle of the hospital's responsibility in preventing such infections. This case represents a scenario where the family sought a waiver of bills for treating the HAI, contrasting with seeking compensation. They argued that if the infection was hospital-acquired, the hospital should absorb the costs.

The family argued that if the infection was hospital-acquired, the hospital should absorb the costs. GETTY IMAGES

Both the Mumbai and Bangalore cases illustrate common but critical challenges faced in healthcare systems, particularly in accredited hospitals. They reflect the broader issues of HAI management, financial implications for patients, and the ethical considerations of healthcare delivery. HAIs are infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment for medical or surgical conditions. Globally, HAIs are among the most common complications within healthcare settings, significantly increasing morbidity, mortality, and financial costs.

Country perspectives

In the US, the Medicare and Medicaid insurance system do not reimburse costs associated with certain HAIs, a policy that incentivises hospitals to prevent infections. U.S. private insurers are also following the same system. Hospitals do not charge patients for the cost of managing HAIs, enhancing accountability. This is supported by platforms like the Hospital Compare website, which publicly displays HAI rates among other quality indicators, allowing patients to make informed healthcare decisions.

India faces unique challenges due to its diverse healthcare standards and high levels of AMR. Despite many hospitals in India obtaining Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation, there is no obligation for these institutions to publicly disclose their HAI rates. Though all NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals) accredited hospitals generate the HAI quality indicator data on a monthly basis, they are not obliged to disclose data.

Proposed Solutions

All NABH and JCI-accredited hospitals should be required to disclose their HAI rates on a common platform, possibly under the oversight of institutions like the NABH, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), or the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). JCI accredited hospitals should follow JCI benchmarks while NABH accredited hospitals can follow a benchmark that can be set using the ICMR-NCDC surveillance network data. Indian benchmark values will be significantly higher than the US CDC benchmark, due to inherent challenges that Indian hospitals face, especially resource limitations.

While direct non-reimbursement for HAI-associated treatments might lead hospitals to offload costs onto patients, insurance companies could instead mandate that a portion of the payouts be directed towards improving infection control standards. For out-of-pocket expenses, hospitals, especially those with JCI accreditation, should align with international practices by not charging patients for the treatment of HAIs. For NABH accredited hospitals, a no loss-no profit model for HAI treatment could be considered. Based on the claims of quality and the benchmark followed by the individual hospital, a reimbursement model can be followed.

Public education plays a crucial role. Patients and families need to understand that not all infections occurring during a hospital stay are due to negligence–some, like a fungal pneumonia in a cancer patient, are unrelated to hospital procedures. Patients should refrain from unnecessarily litigating, and understand that hospitals can only try their best to reduce HAI and not eliminate them.

(Abdul Ghafur is an infectious diseases consultant and health policy expert. drghafur@hotmail.com)

For feedback for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Uniform entrance test to be held for private quota seats from next year

'In the coming days, the government will also consider having a common entrance test for admissions to general degree courses at pvt. universities'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Private universities have agreed to the government's proposal to fill up seats through a uniform entrance test instead of conducting a separate entrance test for each private university to fill up 40% of private quota seats in professional courses, including engineering.

The decision was taken at the meeting held with private universities headed by M.C. Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education, on Thursday.

Private universities will henceforth consider candidates who qualify in CET, JEE – conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and COMEDK for entry into professional courses from the academic year of 2025-26.

M.C. Sudhakar

Speaking at a press conference at the Higher Education Council, Mr. Sudhakar said, "There are 32 private universities in Karnataka and 17 universities offering various professional courses. Each university conducts a separate entrance test for filling up its respective quota seats. Due to this, students have to write many exams in addition to being financially burdened. To avoid this, some official agencies were advised to fill up their share of seats. Otherwise, all the universities were told to form a separate consortium to conduct the examination and fill up the seats." The Minister also mentioned that in the coming days, the government will also consider having a common entrance test for admissions to general degree courses at private universities. "As there is no entrance test for admissions to general degree courses at the colleges and universities run by the government, we were unable to take any decision on it," Dr. Sudhakar explained.

Fee fixation committee

The high fees charged by private universities was also discussed in the meeting and universities have been directed to fix the fees by constituting a fee fixation committee headed by a retired judge. "It is there in the act of every private university and we have directed them that they must fix the fees only through the committees," the Minister said.

The government fixes fees for the 40% government quota seats in private colleges every year.

Going a step ahead to bring uniformity among private universities, the government is contemplating forming a common Act for private universities and bringing them all under a single umbrella. Currently, each university has its own Act. The State government has also decided to constitute a committee to set Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all higher education institutions to handle students caught copying during the examination. This came after the report on the student suicide reported at PES University Bengaluru by Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Jayakara S.M. was placed and discussed in the meeting.

UVCE seats

The State government is contemplating considering Karnataka domicile students while giving admissions at University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) under 25% seats to be filled through JEE.

"There is a provision in the UVCE act to fill 25% seats through JEE. We are planning to implement that to improve the quality by taking quality students and also to provide 10% to Karnataka domicile students in that 25%," he explained. He mentioned that not all the students who cleared JEE will get seats at IITs.

Sharing the government's plans to develop UVCE in an IIT model, the Minister shared that the process to handover 50 acres of land identified at the Jnana Bharati campus is on and the government has earmarked ₹500 crore and already released ₹100 crore in the first phase.

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Fire breaks out at ICU of M.S. Ramaiah Hospital, no major casualties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There was panic after an accidental fire broke out at the cardiac intensive care unit, situated on the third floor of M.S. Ramaiah Hospital in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The blaze, which is suspected to have been started from an AC duct, was noticed by the nursing staff who swung into action and shifted patients to safety to the adjacent ward.

A few nurses sustained minor injuries in the accident, but no major casualties have been reported, a police officer said.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

Smoke billows out of the M.S. Ramaiah Hospital in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Patients evacuated

According to an official statement from Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, all patients from the cardiac critical care unit where the fire broke out were safely evacuated.

"A fire broke out at the cardiac critical care unit on the third floor of the hospital on Thursday. Our immediate priority was the safety of our patients and caregivers. As soon as Code Red was called, all patients were swiftly evacuated to another safe location within the hospital premises," the statement said.

A few nurses sustained minor injuries in the fire accident. All patients from the cardiac ICU were safely evacuated

"This is a one-off isolated unfortunate incident. Our hospital is fully equipped with the highest standards of safety precautions. All authorities have been informed and we will continue to offer our complete support and cooperation to the concerned authorities involved in the process," the statement added.

Water supply disruption in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With preparations in place for the commissioning of the fifth phase of the Cauvery water supply, there will be disruptions in water supply across the city on Saturday, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) announced on Thursday.

As a 700 mm MS pipeline needs to be attached to the 1,000 mm phase two inlet pipeline, there will be a shutdown for nine hours between 1 p.m to 10 p.m. near the Hegganahalli G.L.R. (Ground Level Reservoir) premises, due to which water supply will be disrupted for nine hours.

The divisions where the supply will be disrupted are: Northwest subdivision 1 and 2 of Northwest division 1, Northwest subdivision 3, 4 and 5 of Northwest division 2, West subdivisions 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3 of West division 1 in Dasarahalli Zone. In RR Nagar zone's NW subdivision 1 and 2 of NW division 1 and NW subdivision 3 and 4 of NW division 2, West 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3 subdivisions of West division 1 and West subdivisions 2-1 and 2-2 of West division 2.

Payload on satellite commences operations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Electro Optical-Infrared (EOIR) payload on board EOS-08, ISRO's latest Earth Observation Satellite, launched on August 16, has commenced its operations.

The EOIR is a state-of-the-art payload aboard EOS-08, along with the Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry (GNSS-R) payload and the SiC UV Dosimeter.

ISRO said one of the first images captured by the EOIR payload was taken on August 19, 2024, over Pune city.

Rowdy and associate taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

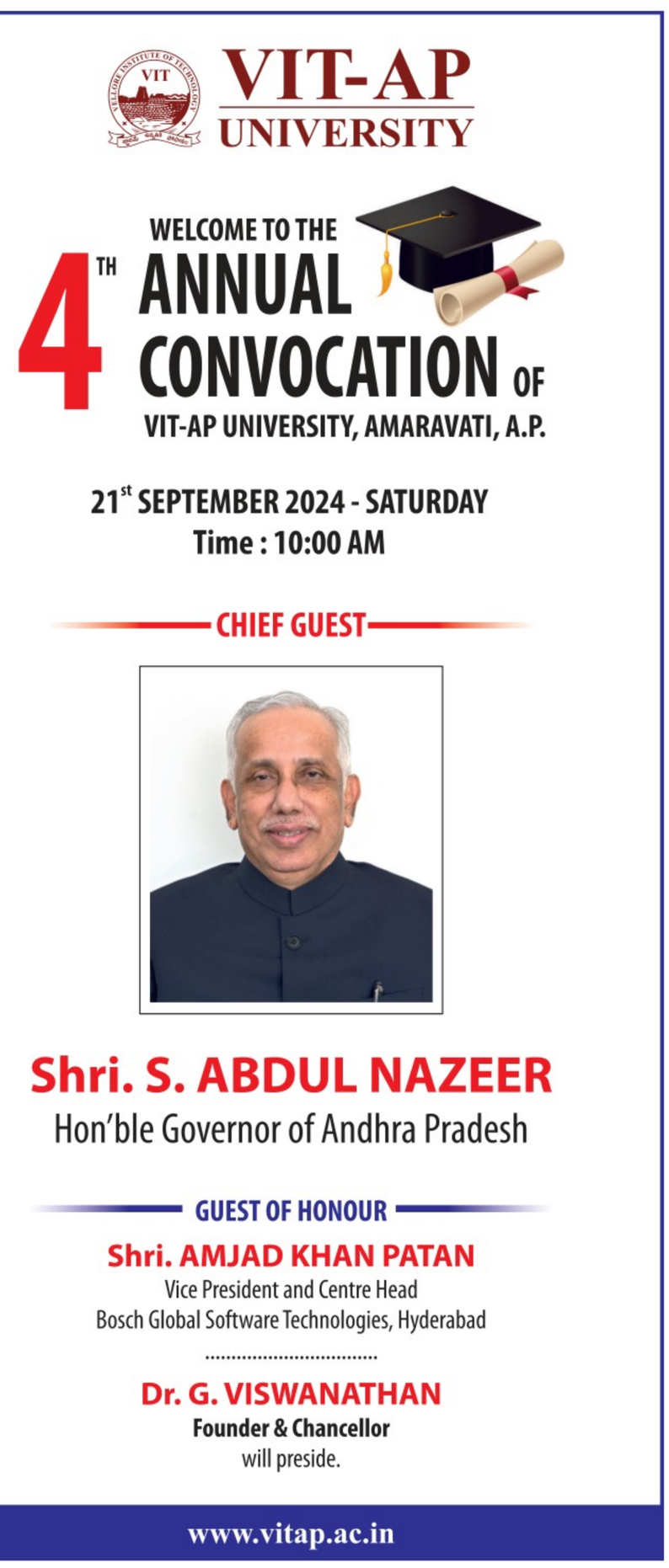
Continuing investigation into the alleged special treatment given to some at the Central Prison of Parappana Agrahara, the Southeast Division police on Thursday took rowdy sheeter Wilson Naga and his associate Velu into three days of custody.

The duo, according to the police, have been running a racket and getting special privileges inside the prison.

The access to mobile phones, cigarettes and other privileges in prison was exposed when film actor Darshan was caught smoking and sipping tea with Naga and his associates at a lawn, the video of which went viral.

The police have also taken convict Vijay into five days of custody in connection with the video call made to another rowdy Dharma's son. Dharma had made a WhatsApp call to his son and made him to talk to Darshan.

Meanwhile, the police who have raided the prison and recovered 15 mobile phones and a pendrive will be sent to FSL for analysis recently.



IISc devises solutions to reduce presence of heavy metals in groundwater

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a nanomaterial-based solution that can effectively reduce the presence of heavy metals like chromium in groundwater.

According to IISc, chromium typically enters soil and groundwater through effluents from industries such as leather tanning, electroplating, and textile manufacturing.

Current methods

Most current methods for removing heavy metal contamination rely on pumping out water from the ground, followed by purification using chemical precipitation, adsorption, ion exchange and reverse osmosis carried out at a different location. The IISc team instead proposes an on-site alternative which involves using iron nanoparticles that can remediate the heavy metals.

"Heavy metals enter the environment because of urbanisation and certain mismanagement by industries. If the groundwater is contaminated, we can inject these nanoparticles into the subsurface groundwater region where it will react with the chromium and immobilise it, resulting in clear water," said Prathima Basavaraju, PhD student at Centre for Sustainable Technologies and lead author of the study.

The group first tried synthesising nanoparticles consisting of nano zero-valent iron (nZVI). This form of iron can react with the toxic and carcinogenic form of chromium (Cr6+) and reduce it to a less harmful form (Cr3+) which in turn results in co-precipitation. However, the team soon realised that the nZVI particles tend to clump together, limiting their application. To prevent clumping, the team turned to carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC). "We modified nZVI by coating it with CMC. It forms a stabilising layer around nZVI separating individual particles," Ms. Prathima added. The CMC coating additionally prolonged the life of the material by preventing oxidation of the iron core. The team also boosted the reactivity of the CMC-nZVI by exposing it to sulphur-containing compounds in anoxic conditions. This enabled the formation of a protective iron sulphide layer on the surface, a process called sulphidation. These modifications improved the stability of the S-CMC-nZVI and maintained its reactivity and efficiency. S-CMC-nZVI showed nearly 99% efficiency at Cr6+ removal under different conditions such as different pH levels and the presence of other competing ions that might be found in groundwater. The team tested this enhanced nanomaterial in conditions that mimic the natural environment of groundwater aquifers.

"Places like Bellandur lake have a lot of contaminated sediments. The technique developed can also prove quite useful in remediating contaminants such as cadmium, nickel, and chromium in contaminated sediments of the lake," said G.L. Sivakumar Babu, Professor at CST, Department of CiE who is also the co-author of the study which was published in the Journal of Water Process Engineering.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, SEP. 20	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:17
RISE 20:08	SET 08:06
SATURDAY, SEP. 21	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:16
RISE 20:57	SET 09:06
SUNDAY, SEP. 22	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:15
RISE 21:50	SET 10:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The military aid to be provided by Germany to war-torn Ukraine

397 In million euros. Germany is set to approve close to 400 million euros in view of the continuously deteriorating military situation in Ukraine. German aid to Ukraine was budgeted for around 8 billion euros in 2024. REUTERS

The increase in India's exports of ready-made garments

12 In per cent. The country's ready-made garment exports (RMG) in August rose to $1.26 billion despite challenges such as high logistic cost. Cumulatively, RMG exports during the April-August period of 2024-25 grew by 7.12% to $6.39 billion. PTI

Number of beneficiaries under Assam's Orunodoi 3.0

37.2 In lakh. The State government rolled out the third edition of its flagship ₹5,604 crore poverty alleviation scheme 'Orunodoi'. It has upped the number of beneficiaries by around 12.6 lakh people across the State. PTI

Number of tourists who visited Tripura in 2023-24

5 In lakh. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said the tourism sector in the northeastern State has experienced significant growth in recent years. Around 4.7 lakh tourists who visited the State in 2023-24 were domestic while remaining 75,000 were from foreign countries. PTI

Funds to Ukraine directed by EU from frozen Russian assets

160 In million euros. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that proceeds of frozen Russian assets will be allocated to meet Ukraine's humanitarian needs for this winter. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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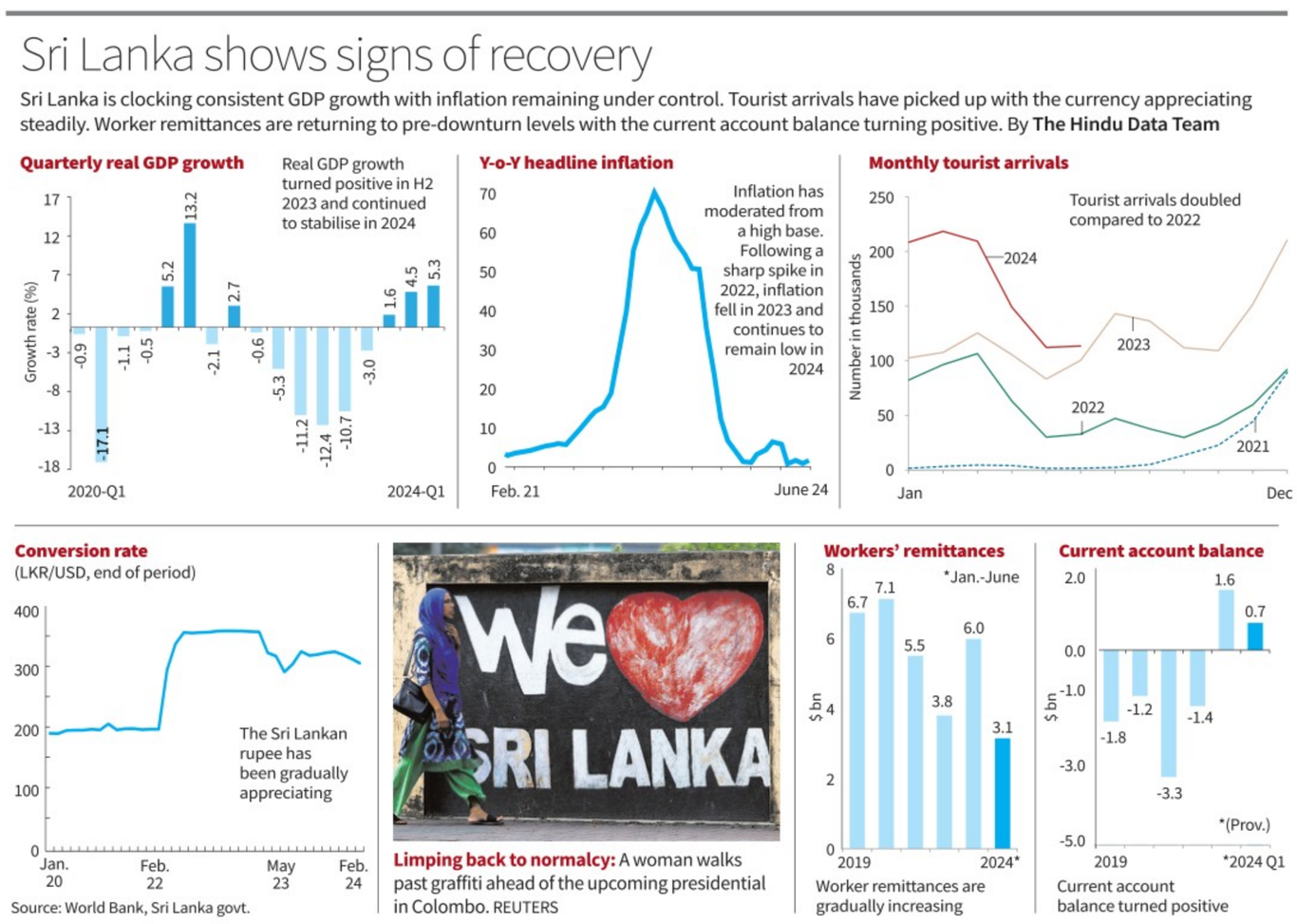
Sri Lankan polls: economy takes centre stage

What caused the unprecedented financial meltdown in the island nation in 2022? What does the International Monetary Fund package entail? How have the government's austerity measures impacted ordinary people? What is the extent of the economic recovery now?

EXPLAINER

Meera Srinivasan

The story so far:
Sri Lanka's presidential election will be held on September 21. Since it is the first time that citizens will have a chance to elect their leader after the unprecedented financial meltdown in 2022, their economic concerns are the chief poll issue. This marks a departure from the island nation's last few elections that were dominated by promises of "eradicating terrorism" (the country's three decade-long civil war ended in 2009), and pledges of delivering "good governance", or "national security". All main contenders running for president this time have promised to fix the country's broken economy, offering mildly different versions of policy outlines tethered to an ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.



THE GIST

- Sri Lanka's classic twin deficit problem dramatically escalated when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resorted to drastic policy decisions, including significant tax cuts, an abrupt ban on chemical fertilizers, and a failure to device a plan to meet debt repayment deadlines.
- The reduced rate of inflation is routinely cited by the Central Bank to signal respite, but it has not softened the blow for consumers. From the time food inflation soared to 94% at the height of the crisis, shoppers have been paying much more for essentials.
- During the crushing economic crisis, at least half a million jobs were lost, food insecurity and malnutrition became widespread, poverty doubled, and inequality widened, according to the World Bank.

What happened in 2022?
Sri Lanka's classic twin deficit problem dramatically escalated when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resorted to rash policy decisions, including significant tax cuts, an abrupt ban on chemical fertilizers, and a failure to devise a plan to meet debt repayment deadlines, especially after foreign reserves dwindled in the wake of the pandemic and questionable policy. In April 2022, Sri Lanka announced it would default on its foreign loans as the "last resort". As the imports-reliant country ran out of dollars, essential supplies were severely hit. People were forced to contend with long queues for fuel and gas, shortage of food and medicines and prolonged power cuts. With no solution in sight, citizens took to the streets. The agitations soon grew into a formidable mass uprising and evicted Mr. Gotabaya from presidency. Soon after, President Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected to the country's top office through a parliamentary vote.

When did the IMF step in?
Although the outgoing government of Mr. Gotabaya was considering seeking IMF assistance, it was only in March 2023 that the agreement for a $3-billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) was finalised by his successor Mr. Wickremesinghe. The EFF sought to "restore Sri Lanka's macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, safeguard financial stability, and step up structural reforms to unlock the country's growth potential". Although Sri Lanka had obtained IMF assistance 16 times earlier, this was its first agreement after defaulting on its loans. The Fund underscored the need for a "comprehensive anti-corruption reform agenda". In order to meet the targets set, the government undertook various policy measures.

It restored the taxes that were cut by the previous administration and increased the Value Added Tax (VAT) to 18% from January 2024. It went for market-pricing of fuel and energy, and agreed to "reform" state-owned enterprises, best known for their huge recurrent losses. Detractors read that as an alarm bell for a fire sale of strategic assets, but the government's plans have yet to transform into actual deals. The Wickremesinghe government also passed at least 42 legislations for the country's "economic transformation".

What is the status of Sri Lanka's debt?
In June this year, Sri Lanka sealed an agreement with the Official Creditor Committee (OCC), to restructure the debt owed to its bilateral lenders including India, and signed a separate agreement with China for debt treatment. The OCC is a platform comprising 17 countries including India and members of the Paris Club such as Japan, that Sri Lanka has borrowed from. It was formed in May 2023 to simplify Sri Lanka's debt negotiations following its default. With the OCC, Sri Lanka reached a restructuring agreement for $5.8 billion of its bilateral loans.

Sri Lanka on September 19, 2024 said it reached agreements in principle to restructure approximately $14.2 billion of sovereign debt with the holders of its International Sovereign Bonds. On the domestic debt front, Sri Lanka's effort at restructuring has sought to protect local banks, while transferring the burden to superannuation funds, including the Employees' Provident Fund. The move, which diminishes the rate of return on investments and the final value of workers' savings, drew huge flak and has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Has the economy recovered?
Over the last year, authorities have been highlighting incremental gains towards macroeconomic stability.

State revenue is up from 8% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the crisis year to 11%. The staggering 70% inflation seen in September 2022 dropped to 5.9% in February 2024. Sri Lanka's economy is expected to grow around 2% to 3% this year, after the dramatic, near-8% contraction in 2022 and further contraction of 2.3 % in 2023.

The IMF has commended the government for its efforts and the government sees reason for promise. Foreign investment of around $1.5 billion made its way into Sri Lanka last year. The crucial tourism industry saw arrivals double, compared to 2022, and bring in revenue totalling over $2 billion. In the first half of 2024, Sri Lanka's tourism revenue reached over $1.5 billion. Remittances from workers, mostly women engaged in domestic work in West Asian countries, showed an uptick of over 50%, amounting to nearly $6 billion in 2023. According to Central Bank data, Sri Lanka's gross official reserves rose to $5.9 billion in August 2024. Export revenue from tea, rubber and spices increased, although the apparel and textile industry saw a drop in earnings. Flagging these macroeconomic gains President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is among the key contenders this election, is running on the plank of economic "stability".

How do people view the government's claim of stability?
Some, especially from affluent sections, appreciate the President's efforts towards economic recovery. However, a majority of Sri Lankans are reeling under the enduring impact of the crisis, and the austerity measures introduced as part of the IMF-led recovery programme.

The electricity tariff hike in 2023 threw over a million families off the grid, as they could not afford their bills, the Parliament was told in January. Sri Lanka has the highest electricity bills in the region, with consumers paying nearly three times more than their South Asian counterparts, according to local think tank PublicFinance.lk. Early this year, the energy regulator reduced the tariff by around 20%, but those who lost their connections last year are in no position to save enough to settle the outstanding arrears. There are no power outages in Sri Lanka now, but children studying in candlelight, women cooking with firewood, and refrigerators and fans falling silent in the scorching heat are not uncommon in poor households.

What about inflation?
The reduced rate of inflation is routinely cited by the Central Bank to signal respite, but it has not softened the blow for consumers. From the time food inflation soared to 94% at the height of the crisis, shoppers have been paying much more for essentials. According to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, food inflation (Y-o-Y) accelerated marginally to 1.5% in July 2024 from 1.4% in June 2024. Further, non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) also accelerated to 2.8% in July 2024 from 1.8% in June 2024. Inflation continued to remain below the targeted level of 5% even after this acceleration, it noted, implying that compared to its rocketing in 2022, the rate of price increase has slowed down.

Meanwhile, higher utility bills, mainly electricity and water, cooking gas and transport costs, have only further drained the stagnant incomes of families. Add to this the 18% VAT. While some essentials, including wheat flour, baby food, and medicines are VAT-exempt, everything, from a cup of tea at the roadside shop to a lunch packet, costs three or four times as much as it did before 2022. The increased cost of producing, sourcing, and supplying items in Sri Lanka's food ecosystem travels fast to the consumer.

What is the impact on people?
While official numbers appear to scream relative macroeconomic stability, people struggle silently to put food on the table every day. Sri Lanka is recovering, but not for all. During the crushing economic crisis, at least half a million jobs were lost, food insecurity and malnutrition became widespread, poverty doubled, and inequality widened, according to the World Bank. Scores of small and medium-sized enterprises plunged into losses and are struggling to bounce back. A UNDP report published in March 2024 said approximately six in 10 (or 55.7%) of all people are multi-dimensionally vulnerable in at least three of the 12 weighted indicators of access to health, education, employment, and income.

Further, 54.9% of households in Sri Lanka are indebted, and 60.5 % of households are grappling with a drop in household income after the crisis, estimates the Department of Census and Statistics. The poor are consuming less, spending a lot more for a lot less, and increasingly, borrowing to make ends meet. The survey showed 91% of households reporting an increase in their total household average monthly expenditure. That too when real wages and incomes have fallen after the pandemic, and job losses exceed one million in the construction sector alone.

Sri Lanka's election will see stability and suffering clash at the ballot box.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2024-25/17
Dated: 13-09-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:-

Name of work	Approx. Value
[i]OHE modifications due to point shifting by Engineering at various yards of Bengaluru-Yediyur Section. [ii] Provision of Auxiliary Transformer for interlocking of LC's [LC No.31/Km 34 (Bidadi-Ramanagaram), LC No 34/Km 40 (Bidadi-Ramanagaram), LC No.46/Km 78 (Gauribidanur-Vikramgarh Alot), LC No.50/Km 58 (Channapatna-Settihalli), LC No.24/Km 26 (Hejjala-Bidadi)].	Rs. 77,12,387.14

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 04-10-2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Traction Distribution, Bengaluru

PUB/432/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. SBC-PCET-SMVB-BIZ3-2024
Dated : 30-08-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Nature of work : Leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) on Round Trip Basis for a period of Six Years from SMVT Bengaluru (SMVB) to Baihata (BIZ).

Reserve Price per round trip for 15 VPH (23 tonnes CC each) + 01 Breakvan (Two units of 4 Tonnes CC each).	**Reserve Price** Rs. 21,25,625/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 15-10-2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Comercial Manager
PUB/437/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर।
जिला परिषद बिल्डींग, सत्संगनगर, देवघर।

ई–अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या :- **15/2024-25/RWD/EE/DEOGHAR** दिनांक :- **19-09-2024**

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1.	RWD/EE/ DEOGHAR/38/ 2024-25	उप स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र नवाकुरा एन0एच0–133 मुख्य सड़क से टोला बोकना तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–3.00 कि.मी.) (प्रखण्ड : मोहनपुर)	3,19,40,900.00	तीन करोड़ उन्नीस लाख चालीस हजार नौ सौ रूपयें	15 माह	प्रथम

(1). बेवसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **23.09.2024**
(2). ई0 निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि – **30.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
(3). निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **01.10.2024** अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
(4). निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रा0 कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर।

PR 336044 (Rural Development) 24-25 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, रॉची

अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

PR 332848 REO(24-25).D

पत्रांकः– दिनांकः–

अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुर्ननिविदा संख्याः–06/RE/2024-25/RWD /EE/RANCHI

क्रम सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि / अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1	RWD/RANCHI/ 21/2024-25	पंचायत चिपरा में कोयल नदी से केसारी गाँव तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0–1.030 कि0मी0)	87,17,600.00	सतासी लाख सतरह हजार छः सौ रूपये मात्र।	06 माह	तृतीय

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथिः–**23.09.2024**
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः–**28.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः–**30.09.2024** अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0651–2360137

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची

PR 336112 (REO) 24-25 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर के ई–अति अल्पकालिन निविदा संख्या – **09/2024-25/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक **12.09.2024** का PR 333807 (REO) 24-25*D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में आईडेन्टिफिकेशन संख्या – **RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/ 22/2024-25** तथा **RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/ 23/2024-25** को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

PR 336142 REO(24-25)D

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
e-mail--- eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement Very Short Notice 2nd Call
e-Tender Reference No .-RCD/FSD /AP/ RAN/21/24-25 Dated 18.09.2024

1-	Name of Work	Consultancy services for Feasibility report for construction of 2-Lane configuration ROB beside the existing Kadru ROB , at Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand from Consultants empanelled in Category-II with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -3063(S) W.E dated 22-08-2022 are allowed to bid.
2-	Work completion time	15 Days
3-	Tentative Length	1.0 km
4-	Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Cost of Tender Document** - Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable) through online mode only. **EMD** :- Rs- 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) through online mode only As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5-	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	20.09.2024, 05.00 PM
6-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	27.09.2024, 12.30 PM
7-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	30.09.2024, 12.30 PM
8-	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhavan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Mobile No-8051090751
9-	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
10-	PR No-	334411 Road (24-25)

For further information please go through the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division,A.P
Road Construction Department,Ranchi .

PR 336061 (Road)24-25*D

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, P.B. No. 436 Lucknow-226 001 (India)
website: https:// www.nbri.res.in

Advertisement no. 01/2024

Start date and time of registration, submission of Online Application & Payment of Application Fee (Online)	**21 September, 2024 from 10:00 Hrs.**
Last date of Submission of Online Application (Thereafter website link will be disabled)	**21 October, 2024**

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, a National Laboratory of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research CSIR), is a premier scientific organization involved in conducting high quality research in the area of Plant Sciences. Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens to fill up the following posts in the prescribed format as per details hereunder:

Post	No. of posts/ Reservation Status	Pay level/Pay matrix & *Total Emoluments (Rs.)	**Upper age limit not exceeding (as on last date of submission of online application)
Junior Hindi Translator	01 -UR	Pay level – 06 (Rs. 35400-112400/-) Total Rs. 70,890/- (Approx.)	30 years
Junior Stenographer (Hindi /English)	Total – 04 posts {02 (Two)-(UR), 01-Reserved for OBC) & 01 Reserved for EWSs)	Pay level -04 (Rs. 25500-Rs.81100/-) Total Rs. 52,575/- (Approx.)	27 years
Security Officer	01 -UR	Pay level -07 (Rs. 44900-Rs.142400/-) Total Rs. 88,465/- (Approx.)	35 years

***Approximate total emoluments on minimum of scale including DA, House Rent Allowance etc. at Lucknow Station.**
****Please see age relaxation under Relaxation Clause of the detailed Advertisement available on Institute's website.**

Candidates have to apply online on visiting Institute's website https://www.nbri.res.in through the application form available there. The detailed advertisement, terms & conditions and instructions to the candidates are available on Institute's website https://www.nbri.res.in.

Controller of Administration

JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
1st Floor, Jharkhand State Housing Board (Old Headquarter), Harmu Housing Colony, Ranchi-834002
Website: www.jserc.org **email: info@jserc.org**

NOTICE

The Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Ranchi invites a Bid for consultancy job in regulatory matters from capable and experienced consultants. The interested person/parties/firms may download the Bid Documents containing terms and condition of Bid from the website of the Commission **www.jserc.org** and submit their Bid by **21st October, 2024 till 04.00 P.M** to the undersigned.

Sd/- (Rajendra Prasad Nayak)
Secretary

CSRRPL CHENNAI SHORELINE RENOURISHMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROJECTS LIMITED
5th Floor, Thalamuthu Natarajan Building, No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Email – shorelinecmda@gmail.com ; csrrplchennai@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Individual Selection)

Chennai Shoreline Renourishment and Revitalization Projects Limited (CSRRPL) is the Special Purpose Vehicle formulated for the planning and implementation of Chennai Shoreline Renourishment and Revitalisation Projects from Chennai Marina to Kovalam. In this regard, CSRRPL intends to hire the services for the below-mentioned positions.

S.No.	Name of Position	No. of Positions	Maximum Remuneration in Rs. (Based on the candidate profile)
1	Chief Financial Officer	1	1,50,000/- per month
2	Chief Operational Officer	1	
3	Company Secretary	1	
4	Senior Urban Planner	1	1,00,000/- per month
5	Environmental Planner and Climate Analyst	1	
6	Sociologist	1	
7	Structural Engineer	1	
8	MEP Engineer	1	

The detailed Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference are available on the CMDA website - **www.cmdachennai.gov.in.** The interested candidates shall express their interest on or before 10.10.2024 at 5.30 p.m. only through the Google form posted on the CMDA website.

Any further Corrigendum or Amendment shall be notified on this website only. Candidates shall regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

DIPR/969/DISPLAY/2024

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Chennai Shoreline Renourishment and Revitalization Projects Limited

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/2024-25/ 1830 **Date:- 18/09/2024.**

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the work notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through e-proc, following the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2024-25/BR/WORK_INDENT12160/CALL-2	3.00
	GENERAL WORKS	
2	PWD/2024-25/BR/WORK_INDENT12233/CALL-2	5.00
3	PWD/2024-25/BR/WORK_INDENT13482/CALL-2	6.70
4	PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT12013	200.00
5	PWD/2024-25/BG/WORK_INDENT15362	10.00
6	PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT11950	300.00
7	PWD/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT15349	5.00
8	PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT14735	200.00

1.Quarries of Tender On: **As Per kppp Portal.** 2.Last Date of Tender Submission On: **27.09.2024 @ 16.00 Hours.** 3.Tender Opening date On: **30.09.2024 @ 16.30 Hours.** 4.Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per kppp Portal.**

Note: 1.Any Changes Either in Tender date or any other condition , Tenderers can view in kppp Portal.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2024-25/KSMCA/ RO No/269

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- **09/2023-24/RI/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक :- **18.09.2024**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
1.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 28/2023-24	पी0एम0जी0एस0वाई0 रोड सारजुमली से टुगरू (तुंगबुरू) गॉव भाया चीथलगोडा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–2.700 कि0मी0)	2,86,71,400.00	दो करोड़ छियासी लाख एकहत्तर हजार चार सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	द्वितीय

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– **20.09.2024 I**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– **27.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– **28.09.2024** अपराह्न 11.00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

PR 336145 REO(24-25)#D

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई–अति अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अति अल्पकालिन निविदा संख्या:- **09/2024-25/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक :- **18.09.2024**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशनसंख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 22/2024-25	कसकोमगोड़ा चौक से बैद्यनाथडीह, शांतिपुर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.800 कि0मी0)	1,86,84,600.00	एक करोड़ छियासी लाख चौरासी हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह
2.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 23/2024-25	बैद्यनाथडीह, बाछाई नाला से खैरबनी रेलवे फाटक तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.550 कि0मी0)	1,35,29,100.00	एक करोड़ पैंतीस लाख उन्तीस हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र	9 माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– **20.09.2024 I**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– **27.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– **28.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

PR 336143 (REO) 24-25 (D)

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई–अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- **06/2024-25/RII/STPKG/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक :- **19.09.2024**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
1	RWD/EE/JSR/ STPKG/04/2024-25	L068-T01 से बालीडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–11.250 कि0मी0)	7,95,67,100.00	सात करोड़ पन्चानवे लाख सड़सठ हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	तृतीय
		L071 कालीमाटी रोड से दिगरी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–2.800 कि0मी0)	1,38,90,100.00	एक करोड़ अड़तीस लाख नब्बे हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L025 नरसिंहपुर रोड से कालाझोर टोला तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–5.550 कि0मी0)	2,61,65,000.00	दो करोड़ एकसठ लाख पैंसठ हजार रू0 मात्र		
		कुल	11,96,22,200.00	ग्यारह करोड़ छियानवे लाख बाईस हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र		

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– **20.09.2024 I**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः– **27.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– **28.09.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे ।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

PR 336172 (REO) 24-25 (D)

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ

–: ई– अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :–

ई– अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या :– 23/2024-25/EE/RWD/SRK दिनांक 19.09.2024

1. कार्य का नाम

क्र. सं.	ID No. / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेन्डर कॉल
1.	RWD/EE/SRK/ 19/2024-25	नीमडीह	सिरका टोला कान्ठालडीह हरिमंदिर से ससांगडीह तक पथ निर्माण। (लम्बाई– 1.85 कि0मी0)	1,64,92,037.00	एक करोड़ चौसठ लाख बिरानवे हजार सैंतीस रू0 मात्र।	12 माह	2nd Call
2.	RWD/EE/SRK/ 20/2024-25	नीमडीह	पी0डब्ल्यू0डी0 पथ माझीडीह मोड़ से माकुला भाया बानडीह तक पथ निर्माण। (लम्बाई– 2.43 कि0मी0)	2,07,05,677.00	दो करोड़ सात लाख पाँच हजार छः सौ सतहत्तर रू0 मात्र।	12 माह	2nd Call
3.	RWD/EE/SRK/ 21/2024-25	नीमडीह	समानपुर से जाड़ेया तक पथ निर्माण। (लम्बाई– 1.50 कि0मी0)	1,50,75,424.00	एक करोड़ पचास लाख पचहत्तर हजार चार सौ चौबीस रू0 मात्र।	12 माह	2nd Call
4.	RWD/EE/SRK/ 22/2024-25	कुकडू	पी0डब्ल्यू0डी0 पथ से छोटालापांग तक पथ निर्माण। (लम्बाई– 2.45 कि0मी0)	2,51,28,416.00	दो करोड़ इकावन लाख अठाईस हजार चार सौ सोलह रू0 मात्र।	15 माह	2nd Call
5.	RWD/EE/SRK/ 23/2024-25	ईचागढ़	नारो से कुन्दरीलोंग तक पथ निर्माण। (लम्बाई– 1.30 कि0मी0)	1,44,06,473.00	एक करोड़ चौवालीस लाख छः हजार चार सौ तिहत्तर रू0 मात्र।	09 माह	2nd Call

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 23.09.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 28.09.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 30.09.2024 को अपराह्न 03:30 बजे।
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सरायकेला –खरसावाँ।
8. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष संख्या :– 7209661815

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I, J .MANJULA, Wife of No 14245262H Rank HONY/Nb Sub Name SHIVA KUMAR GOUDA **JAMBANAGOUDAR** presently residing at #64, 22ND Block, MIG-B, CHS, 249-S, 4th Cross, 5th Phase, Yelahanka New Town Bangalore-560064 have changed my name from **J. MANJULA to MANJULA JAMBANA GOUDAR** for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 13 SEP 2024 before Notary Public **T.C.THIMMARAJA** Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, S K VERMA R/o SMQ:7/6 Akash Vihar Camp, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my name from S K Verma to Satish Kumar Verma vide affidavit dated 18/09/2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

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Our Website
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IN THE LIMELIGHT

From left to right: Stills and posters from *Laughing Buddha*, *Pepe* and *Family drama.*

Post-interval blues: Kannada cinema and the curse of the second half

In 2024, several Kannada films have suffered from an underwhelming second half as new filmmakers continue to face the age-old crisis of finishing films on a high after a promising start. How do filmmakers ensure that viewers remain invested in the movie throughout the runtime?

Vivek M.V.

Unlike Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight Trilogy,* which was set-piece heavy, Matt Reaves' *The Batman,* the reboot of the popular franchise, uses action sparingly. During the screening of the Robert Pattinson-starrer in a theatre in Bengaluru, the crowd was left grumbling when the screen turned blank for the intermission moments before the film's first big action sequence. Thanks to the Indian concept of the interval, the theatre operator had to stop the movie at a point he deemed correct.

We can't avoid the feeling of abruptness when we break for an interval during a Hollywood film. The reason? Films are made as one single entity. Hollywood filmmakers don't have the pressure to split films into two halves. On the contrary, Indian directors hate the burden of writing two endings for a movie. One arrives at the intermission point, popularly called the 'interval bang', and the second is the film's climax. Commercial filmmakers alter the traditional three-act structure by writing an elaborate interval episode apart from the setup, confrontation, and resolution.

The pressure of taking a break

Social media has made the midpoint an indispensable part of a commercial movie. For highly-anticipated films, fans put out reviews of the first and the second halves, treating the movie as two films clubbed together. However, the post that garners the most attention on social media is about the interval. So much so that a film's quality is measured based on the excitement you feel at the interval point, fuelled by a shocking twist in the plot or an adrenaline-pumping sequence.

The Kannada short film *Madhyantara*, which recently clinched two National Awards (Best Debut Director and Best Editor), is a fascinating take on the two halves of a film. The movie is about two poor men who are mad about movies in the 1970s.

What happens when all they can afford is one movie ticket? One watches the first half, while the other sits for the second half! Destiny lands them in the film industry, and after years of hard work, they dream of making a film. How will the director duo split its responsibility? One decides to direct the first half, while the other takes the onus of shooting the second half!

The quirky idea works fantastically inside the film's universe, but the reality is a different picture. In a bid to pique the viewers' curiosity at the halfway mark, are filmmakers drifting away from the film's core idea? Are we seeing films that begin strongly and then lose their way after the break?

The curse of the second half is an age-old problem, with even the biggest Indian filmmakers across industries finding it difficult to crack the challenge. In 2024, the issue has been a significant hurdle for Kannada writer-directors. Several interesting films have fallen short of being perfect due to uninspiring second halves.

Post the interval

Pepe, starring Vinay Rajkumar from the Dr Rajkumar family, was supposed to offer the actor a 'mass' image. It does, to an extent, with some high moments. After setting up his film like an epic – involving two groups divided by caste and privilege – director Sreelesh Nair throws his hands up. In the second half, continuous action sequences kill our curiosity. What's the point of seeing the hero kill a thousand people when you have already stopped caring for the film's characters? *Pepe* forgets one of the basic elements of writing: to evoke emotions from the viewers.

The director hesitates to take the story forward, for he has a sequel planned. The first part is always about setting up the story. How can you convince the audience for a sequel after you have lost their trust in the first installment?

Laughing Buddha from Rishab Shetty films portrays the fitness issues of our police officers, ridiculed for having pot bellies. In the second half, *Laughing Buddha* becomes an investigative thriller from a comedy-drama. The jokes dry up, and the narrative gets stretched. Many such films start with one idea and end with another one. To its advantage, however, the film concludes on a high, and that's a big plus. As audiences, we tend to retain visuals of what we see during the closing portions of a film (Remember Rolex in *Vikram?*).

The demands of commercial cinema often push filmmakers to compromise with their stories. *Bheema,* directed by Dunija Vijay, showcases the harmful effects of drugs in the slums of Bengaluru. After a breezy first half with many theatre-worthy moments backed by Charan Raj's fabulous score, the crime drama goes downhill. Vijay takes the idea of a social message too seriously, and the film becomes too explanatory. Moreover, playing to the gallery, he takes the tried and tested route of one man saving the system.

In *Family Drama,* a quirky comedy made by newcomers, we see the problem of one half hurting the film, albeit in reverse. It has one of the best second halves of Sandalwood this year. An unconventional middle-class family attempting to eliminate a feared don offers a hilarious experience. That said, why leave the best things too late? It's as if the director had a superb interval block but failed to reach there convincingly, resulting in an underwhelming first half.

Waiting in the queue for our popcorn tub, we build a perception about a film after watching it till the middle. How do filmmakers ensure that viewers remain invested in the movie throughout the runtime? Solid writing helps us extract maximum potential from our unique ideas. Perhaps an engaging screenplay can strengthen the overall output.

According to writer Javed Akhtar from the great Salim-Javed duo, a good screenplay increases curiosity at the right place and knows when to slow down. It understands when to make the narrative jump and when to take stress off the conflict. Easier said than done, but when one of our finest writers has a lesson, it would do no harm to practise it.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
Upendran

"I just don't believe it."

"Believe what?"

"Here you are, sitting at your desk and actually browsing through your dictionary."

"So what?"

"Why it must be the eighth wonder of the world!"

"I don't think it's very funny."

"Oh come on, don't take it so seriously. It's only a joke. Anyway, what are you looking for?"

"I'm trying to find out the pronunciation of e...x...p...a...t..i...a...t...e."

"It's pronounced expatiate. The first syllable 'ex' is pronounced like the 'ix' in words like 'six' and 'fix'. The 'pa' is pronounced the same way as the word 'pay'. The third syllable 'ti' sounds like the 'shi' in words like 'ship' and 'shin'. And the final 'ate' rhymes with 'date' and 'late'."

"And which syllable has the stress?"

"It's the second syllable 'pa'. So the word is pronounced 'expatiate.'

""Expatiate. O.K.?"

"Sounds fine. Do you know what the word means?"

"Doesn't it mean expand or something like that?"

"Yes, that's right. When you expatiate on something, you talk about it in great detail. The word does not have a good connotation. It implies 'long-windedness, ranging without restraint or wandering at will over a subject.' The Vice-Chancellor expatiated for two hours upon the new courses at the university."

"So when you expatiate on something, you write or speak about it in a long winded manner."

"That's right. But remember, 'expatiate' is a formal word. So one has to be careful while using it"

"I see."

"But why are you so interested in this word?"

"Well, I read an article by someone who wanted to expatiate on his sins."

"Expatiate on his sins! That's interesting."

"But why would anybody want to talk/write about his sins in great detail?"

"Maybe he has very interesting sins to write/talk about"

"But that's not the impression I got when I read the article. It seemed as if this person felt sorry for all the bad things he had done. He sounded very sad."

"He wanted to make up for the bad things he had done, eh? Well in that case he didn't want to expatiate on his sins."

"Then what did he want to do?"

"He wanted to expiate his sins."

"Ex... what?"

"Expiate. This is also a formal word. The first syllable is pronounced like the 'ex' in words like 'text' and 'next'. The 'pi' is pronounced like the 'pi' in words like 'pit', 'pin' and 'pill'. And the final syllable rhymes with 'date' and 'late'."

"The stress is on..."

"It's on the first syllable. So it's pronounced expiate."

"Expiate. But what does it mean?"

"It means to make amends for some wrong that you have done. You atone for it."

Published in The Hindu on June 8, 1993.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The revamped version of the UEFA men's Champions League kicked off on September 17. Here is a quiz on the prestigious European men's club tournament

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
The tournament started in 1956 as the European Cup and got a facelift in 1992 to become the now-replaced version, the UCl. Name the inaugural winners of both versions.

QUESTION 2
What is the most significant change in the latest version of the tournament?

QUESTION 3
Real Madrid are regarded as the 'kings of Europe' for their record 15 tournament wins, along with records like most goals scored and most matches won. Which team holds both the record for most defeats and most goals conceded in the tournament?

QUESTION 4
Name the only club outside the top five leagues to win the tournament in the 21st century?

QUESTION 5
Who were the finalists when the infamous Heysel disaster took place?

Visual question:
Name this iconic manager and the club he managed to break Real Madrid's streak of five wins in 1961 to become the second club to win the tournament.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This U.S. President's farewell address was printed in a newspaper, where he implored his country to maintain neutrality. **Ans: George Washington**
2. This English romance novelist wrote *Hollywood Wives.* **Ans: Jackie Collins**
3. This person, known by the moniker the Unabomber was an American mathematician and domestic terrorist. **Ans: Ted Kaczynski**
4. This medical drama stars notable actors like George Clooney and Juliana Margulies. **Ans: *ER***
5. Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistani President Ayub Khan signed this treaty to control the management of a river and its tributaries. **Ans: Indus Waters Treaty**
6. This American astronaut was born on September 19 in 1965. **Ans: Sunita Williams**
Visual: Identify this poet. **Ans: William Golding who wrote *Lord of the Flies***
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Varghese Joseph| M. Suresh Kumar| Debarati Kar

Word of the day

Approbation:
official approval; official recognition

Usage: *They deserve approbation and applause for this achievement.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/approbationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌæp.ɹəʊˈbeɪ.ʃən/, /ˌæp.ɹəˈbeɪ.ʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Three persons booked for honey-trapping city-based businessman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashoknagar police have registered a case against a woman and her two associates for allegedly honey-trapping a city-based businessman and extorting ₹40 lakh in total.

Unable to heed to her demand for more money, the victim approached the Ashoknagar police and filed a complaint. The accused, identified as Kavya, met the victim on a social media app four years ago and introduced herself as a cine artist, and she allegedly made him pay ₹4.2 lakh to her associate, who she introduced as the director of a movie.

When Kavya did not respond for many months, the victim started asking for his money back, after which she invited him home in Gottigere and recorded private videos. The accused started demanding a ransom using the video and took ₹40 lakh. She got a scooter from the victim and later started demanding a car, he alleged. Unable to bear the harassment, he complained to the police against them.

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Hon'ble Minister of State for
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Killing the trees: The beautification work that has been taken up at BEML Circle on New Thippasandra Road has exposed the roots of an old tree. K.C. DEEPIKA

Pavement renovation projects have affected the health of several trees. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Getting to the root of Bengaluru's tree-falls

From competing with high-rises for sunlight to infrastructure projects for their very existence, the trees of Bengaluru are up against many odds. **K.C. Deepika** finds that while Bengalureans wax eloquent about the city's green cover, few do anything to stop trees from being choked at their roots or turned into billboards

Seventy-six-year-old Bhadraiah takes time off from his stall in Jayanagar III Block, where piping hot *bajji*s are made, when asked about a grand banyan tree on the road where his shop and house are located. "I've seen this tree ever since I moved here 50 years ago. Even the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) won't take it down, nor will the residents here allow it, because it's a sacred tree and it's dear to all of us," he says.

In east Bengaluru, at BEML Gate on the ever-busy Suranjandas Road, another tree has no such luck. Its roots stand exposed, almost unnaturally manicured, as work goes on beside it on the construction of an enclosure for the Kempegowda statue that was installed here.

Rapid loss of green cover

Bengaluru, once known as the Garden City of India, in its transition to becoming the IT capital, has seen a rapid loss of green cover. As extreme weather conditions are becoming increasingly frequent, and with experts also flagging the urban heat island phenomenon, the need to pay more attention to the ecology of the city has become more apparent than ever.

Ecologists say Bengaluru's tree diversity is much larger compared to other big cities. Harini Nagendra, Director of the School of Climate Change and Sustainability at Azim Premji University, said the city has a large palette of over 50 species that have historically been used for greening in different areas.

"In most other large cities across the world, a handful of species predominate, reducing biodiversity and also making the species prone to diseases that can sweep through quite quickly, damaging old trees. Partly because of the city's colonial heritage, and partly because of an older Indian tradition of planting a variety of keystone species like peepal and banyan, Bengaluru has always drawn on a large variety of trees," she said.

"Increasing tree biodiversity helps make urban tree populations more resistant to such diseases, and Bengaluru has an advantage here. Some of this is, unfortunately, changing. For instance, in sacred spaces - temples, churches, mosques and cemeteries – we find trees of high species diversity, as well as on roadsides. But in gardens and parks, we find a few species predominate. Similarly, plant diversity is very low in landscaped gardens but high in informal settlements, especially the diversity of native plants, which many of these households grow to use in cooking and as herbal medicines," said Harini.

> What if alignment of metro, road widening and other projects are made on the basis of plans that also show locations of trees, so that other ways of planning these projects could be considered?
>
> **HARINI NAGENDRA**
> Director, School of Climate Change and Sustainability, Azim Premji University

Planning around trees

But the city's trees have often been victims of "developmental work". Experts say it is often avoidable.

"City planners come up with the developmental work plan on purely engineering-based considerations – as if the trees do not exist – and then come to the tree authorities with a binary request – to approve or decline permissions to cut trees. Then environmentalists, who bat for the trees, are accused of being anti-development. But there is another way. What if the alignment of the metro, road widening and other projects were made on the basis of plans that also showed the locations of the trees – so that other ways of planning these projects could be considered?" said Harini.

She mentioned the example of parts of Sarjapur Road, where during road-widening work a decade ago, trees on either side of the road were retained as medians in the new, wider road. Similarly, for the metro projects, minor changes in the location of the commercial complexes could save several large trees, but this was not considered in the initial design, she added.

As if this is not enough, of late, trees have come under the scanner for causing fatalities apart from damages to infrastructure. Every year, we come across instances of tree-falls in Bengaluru, sometimes resulting in fatalities. This August, a 49-year-old auto driver succumbed to severe head injuries when a tree fell on his autorickshaw in Vijayanagar. BBMP Forest Cell officials confirmed that weakened roots caused the tree-fall. What's ailing our trees?

Trees for Bengaluru homes

- Avocado (Persea americana)
- Chikoo (Manilkara zapota)
- Coral jasmine (Nyctanthes arbor-tristis)
- Crape jasmine (Tabernaemontana divaricata)
- Curry leaf (Bergera koenigii)
- Custard apple (Annona squamosa)
- Drumstick (Moringa oleifera)
- Frangipani (Plumeria obtusa)
- Guava (Psidium guajava)
- Henna (Lawsonia inermis)
- Hibiscus (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis)
- Hummingbird tree (Sesbania grandiflora)
- Indian beech (Pongamia pinnata)
- Indian mast (Polyalthia longifolia)
- Lipstick tree (Bixa orellana)
- Mango (Mangifera indica)
- Neem (Azadirachta indica)
- Peacock flower (Caesalpinia pulcherrima)
- Pink trumpet tree (Handroanthus impetiginosus)
- Pomegranate (Punica granatum)
- Potato tree (Solanum grandiflorum)
- Singapore cherry (Muntingia calabura)
- Star gooseberry (Phyllanthus acidus)
- Weeping bottlebrush (Melaleuca viminalis)
- Yellow oleander (Cascabela thevetia)
- Yellow tabebuia (Tabebuia aurea)

SOURCE: "Tree planting guide for houses and apartments in Bengaluru" by Azim Premji University

Why tree falls

Ganesan Rengaian, Senior Fellow, SM Sehgal Foundation Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), says depending on the species, trees are either short-lived or long-lived. While fatalities and damages by trees are not new, incidences of damages caused to trees have increased in the recent past, he pointed out.

"First, we plant inappropriate species at inappropriate locations and naturally, the life of the trees gets further curtailed. When gusty winds, especially during the summer rains, pass through the narrow lanes and roads lined with tall buildings, the 'funnelling' effect of the wind breaks the branches or uproots the trees," he says.

Cementing and asphalting the surface on the base of the tree, pruning the branches leading to an imbalance of the tree trunk, high frequency of passing vehicles on the roads, damage to the bark by nailing, girdling the branches and trunk with ropes, wires and banners, burning litter around the tree trunk could all be the other reasons killing the trees. "The new phenomenon of using trees as poles to hold cables should be taken seriously as part of tree management," he explained.

Harini added that the choice of species also has a lot to do with this. Some species, like the Gulmohar and Singapore Cherry, have weak roots and are prone to falling after a few years; others, like the rain tree and neem, tend to be deep-rooted and more stable, with a longer life span, she said.

This August alone, a total of 53 trees had been uprooted, and 92 tree branches had fallen in the city.

Competing for light

BBMP officials agree that lifespan, as well as damage to the roots of the trees for various projects, injures the trees and weakens them. B.L.G. Swamy, DCF, BBMP, also spoke of another problem that has emerged with high rises. "Trees with linear heights are increasingly having to compete with high rises for sunlight. This makes them crown heavy, thereby prone to damage."

Ganesan explained this further, saying branches and leaves are specifically arranged in a tree to capture the maximum amount of light and vary from the temporal and spatial availability of light. "In search of light, the branches keep growing or fail to grow, leading to the ultimate death of the tree or the tree looking unnatural," he said.

While there are approximately 20 lakh trees in BBMP areas, Swamy said the first tree census, which began this January, is expected to be completed in three months and give a clearer picture. "We are also discussing the possibility of ascribing a size for avenue trees to avert danger in the future," he added.

Harini said we need a multi-pronged strategy to protect existing green cover, spatially link green patches in the city to improve biodiversity, and conduct extensive tree plantation to combat the losses of tens of lakhs of trees in the past couple of decades. First, we need to identify and protect all heritage trees, especially those that are old and large, which are an important part of the city's heritage and cannot be easily replaced by planting young saplings.

Second, we need to link patches of green spaces such as wooded roads, small pocket parks, and the large botanical gardens and other wooded spaces like IISc, Bangalore Palace, GKVK, etc – by planting smaller sections of trees and working with private land owners to increase connectivity between these green patches – so that endangered wildlife like the slender loris and mobile species like birds and butterflies can easily move from one location to the other, instead of getting trapped within increasingly shrinking green spaces as is currently the case," she said.

Plant wisely

She also stressed the need for a well-planned tree planting policy - planting aggressively but wisely and staying away from planting trees like Eucalyptus or Acacia auriculiformis on lake beds, but instead planting a diversity of trees that provide flower, fruit and shade in home gardens, corporate, residential and educational campuses, government and military-owned areas, streets, gardens and manicured lawns.

Perilous slant: A huge tree poses a threat to passersby on Bull Temple Road. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Beyond the finish line

Narain Karthikeyan, in a free-wheeling chat, reflects on his start-up venture, DriveX, the CoASTT circuit he helped develop, and the future of motorsport

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.sudevan@thehindu.co.in

It is not every day that you get driven around by a Formula One racer. On a sunny Wednesday afternoon, Narain Karthikeyan, 47, was behind the wheel of his sleek black SUV, taking us on a personal tour of the Coimbatore Auto Sports and Transport Trust (CoASTT) circuit, which he helped create.

Now, as an entrepreneur, smart casuals have replaced his racing gear. Instead of strategising with his team over the radio, he was discussing business with various stakeholders while driving (PSA: Don't use the phone while driving! Narain can get away with it because, well, he is Narain and was driving on a traffic-free tarmac).

As we cruised around the quiet, 3.8km bidirectional circuit, Narain shared insights into his latest venture, DriveX, a three-year-old startup focused on buying and selling pre-owned two-wheelers, looked back at his racing days, and looked forward to a glorious future for Indian motorsports.

Narain's long and illustrious racing career extended beyond Formula One, where he became the first-ever driver from India. Until 2019, he enjoyed a successful stint in the Super GT series in Japan. "I had a good season, competing in races with large grids and crowds. Super GT cars are incredibly fast, close to the speed of single-seaters you see in F1. I even had a first-place finish in one of the races," he recalls.

Then, COVID-19 put the brakes on his racing – and pretty much everything.

Though Nakajima Racing offered a contract extension when Super GT resumed, Narain, now in his 40s, realised he had to make way for younger, talented racers.

"During the pandemic, I noticed the struggles of people who had to commute to work without safe yet affordable transportation. Entry-level scooters were too expensive, costing about a lakh. Inspired by my knowledge of the automotive industry and experience in refurbishment, I thought about offering a subscription and leasing service for used two-wheelers," says Narain.

Thus, DriveX was born. Leveraging Narain's strong brand value and the positive response from early customers, it quickly gained traction and secured the backing of TVS Motor Co. Today, it has evolved into a platform for purchasing pre-owned two-wheelers. The fast-growing company, headquartered in Bengaluru, has 57 retail outlets across India.

Speed and strategy

Narain's entrepreneurial shift is not surprising, given his lineage. Hailing from the renowned PSG business house in Coimbatore, business was ingrained in his DNA. "My connection to automobiles made it natural for me to pursue a venture in the automotive industry. Also, my passion for speed and racing started with two-wheelers. When I visited my aunt in America, she gifted me a Z50 Honda. That's what got me into racing. So, DriveX seemed like a perfect fit."

Motorhead forever Narain Karthikeyan has always been fascinated by cars and bikes. PRAVEEN SUDEVAN, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The transition from the racetrack to the boardroom was seamless, thanks to the parallels Narain drew between the two worlds. "Business planning, like racing, is all about practicality. When your car isn't performing, you analyse why and work with your team to optimise its performance. This approach is very similar to problem-solving and teamwork in business."

Running a business like DriveX comes with its own challenges, but Narain remains focused and determined. "Patience is key, just as it is in racing. Maintaining a balance between aggression and caution is essential for success."

Looking ahead

Formula One has evolved dramatically since Narain's racing days. For instance, the average age of Formula One TV viewers has dropped significantly from 44 to 32, making the sport more appealing to commercial brands and broadcasters. It is a reflection of F1's digital-first approach and projects such as the Netflix documentary *Drive To Survive*.

This surge in popularity has also had a positive impact in India, as evidenced by the recent Chennai night street race for the Indian Racing Festival. "It has shown that India can host world-class sporting events. We should make it a regular fixture, similar to the Macau Grand Prix," says Narain.

"The CoASTT track in Coimbatore also has the potential to be upgraded to a faster configuration. This would allow us to attract more national and international events," he says, "In India, two-wheeler racing has seen a surge in popularity. Our two-wheeler racing infrastructure is more advanced than our Formula One infrastructure."

While the current era might be more exciting for motorsport athletes in India, Narain does not regret racing in his time. "I raced during a fantastic era with drivers such as Michael Schumacher and V10 engines that roared to 18,000 RPM. While today's cars are different, there's something special about the classic era of F1."

Before we get off his car, we ask: "Would you have become anything other than a racer?"

He smiles before replying: "Despite the family support, to be India's first F1 driver was a monumental challenge. There were no facilities, cutting-edge tracks, or infrastructure to support such a dream. Still, I would do it all over again."

Round two

Bandland is coming back to Bengaluru in November this year

Pictures of home Deep Purple at Bandland last year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following the success of their inaugural edition, the rock music festival is back with Bandland 2024. To be held on November 23 and 24, the event themed Come Home to Bandland will see a fantastic line up of artistes from around the world.

While last year's festival saw global names such as Deep Purple, Goo Goo Dolls, The War on Drugs and others play alongside Indian bands such as Parvaaz, SKRAT, Thermal and a Quarter, Aswekeepsearching and The F16s, this year, the focus has been around the idea of home – of acceptance and inclusivity.

As a result, this year, music lovers will get to enjoy the musical stylings of 14 well-known names, with hard rock and funk metal bands Avenged Sevenfold and Extreme headlining the show.

Avenged Sevenfold, also known as A7X, are a California-based progressive heavy metal band that have been rocking stages since the early 2000s, while Extreme from Boston have made a name for themselves with their unique blend of funk, blues and ballads. With these two names opening the show, it is bound to be full of spectacular sound and synergy.

The others joining them in this musical extravaganza include British rock band Everything Everything, known for their art-rock flair, New Delhi's Bloodywood with their nu-metal blend of Indian folk music, Thaikkudam Bridge from Kochi with their signature fusion of rock and Indian classical music, and Big Special from Britain with their innovative sound.

Bandland 2024 will take place on November 23 and 24 at NICE Grounds, BIEC. Tickets on Bookmyshow. More details on performing artistes available on site.

Around the world in a coffee cup

Vanamo in Indiranagar has dishes from countries such as Ukraine, Greece, Romania, and the Philippines

Go global (clockwise from top) Polenta caponata; interiors of Vanamo. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

Global cuisine has become shorthand for just Italian and pan-Asian when it comes to restaurant menus. But when I visited Vanamo, a new cafe in Indiranagar, I experienced a global menu that truly picks its dishes from all across the world - from Malaysian kari debal curry to French chicken confit. In an area saturated with coffee shops, Vanamo is trying to stand out with its gourmet approach to food and coffee.

The cafe takes its name from the Finnish word for the twinflower and is located on 100 Feet Road. It has chic modern interiors that take inspiration from Nordic architecture.

Accents of gold and green dominate the space.

The coffee menu has beans from Yirgacheffe in Ethiopia and Supremo single origin beans from Colombia. I opted for a classic cappuccino made with Ethiopian beans, and the drink was rich, fruity and balanced. The menu also has flavoured coffees like smoked oak and brown butter.

Vanamo wants to steer clear of the usual cafe classics. There are no pastas or burgers. Instead, there is an eclectic selection of dishes, with little flags next to the names to indicate where they originate from. I started with a comforting cauliflower and corn soup from North America. The slow-cooked vegetables were finished with coconut milk that made it silky and heartwarming.

The Middle Eastern shish taouk roasted lamb salad was another stand out, with maple roasted pumpkin, baby potatoes, arugula and a lemon tahini dressing.

From the small plates section, I spotted Spanish patatas bravas, a smashed potato dish, Malaysian rojak fruit salad, and the Ukrainian favourite chicken Kiev. But I took the Italian route and tried the polenta caponata. Cubes of polenta were topped with the fresh eggplant relish called caponata. The dish had an interesting mix of textures.

Heading East for my mains, I was served the katsu yakisoba. The Japanese dish had stir fried noodles, vegetables and panko-crumb fried chicken. The dish has been around in Japan for more than a 100 years and the signature sweet and spicy yakisoba sauce is what makes it special. I rounded off the meal with an innovative Black Forest cheesecake. I am personally not a fan of chocolate in cheesecake, but the dessert was well-made.

While some may miss staples like French fries and sandwiches, for a more experimental coffee shop experience, Vanamo may be a good bet.

Cost for two ₹1,600. On 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar. For more details, call 9008266669

STEPOUT

Grand showcase

Arya Vysya Business Group, presents B-SHIP Expo. It will feature over over 200 stalls, with products ranging from food, garments, stationery, lifestyle home furniture, makeup, healthcare, electronics and accessories. This is Arya Vysya's maiden event in Bengaluru with the expo providing a platform for networking for small businesses and entrepreneurs.
At Shubh Convention Center, JP Nagar. From September 21 to 22, 10am to 8pm.

A German film

Watch the award-winning film *Wings of Desire (Der Himmel über Berlin* in German), directed by Wim Wenders. The film follows two angels, who wander the city, observing its inhabitants and listening to their thoughts. The screening is a part of German Cinema in Focus series, curated by Shivani and this is the first of four films in the sub-section Director's Special that spotlights one of the influential filmmakers of the New German Cinema. Entry to the screening is free for anyone above 18 years.
On September 21, 4.30pm at Max Mueller Bhavan.

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Kalasa-Banduri: CM writes to Modi seeking early nod from wildlife board

'In view of Goa's objections to the drinking water project with minimum disruption to wildlife, Karnataka has no choice but to reconsider its decision on clearance to Goa-Tamnar power line'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged the Centre to provide necessary clearance from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) to expedite the execution of the long-pending Kalasa-Banduri Nala Diversion Project, crucial for fulfilling the drinking water needs of north Karnataka district.

In a letter on September 18, Mr. Siddaramaiah requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene to provide wildlife clearance to the project at the earliest. Till date the NBWL, which the Prime Minister chairs, has not granted the clearance. He pointed out that the NBWL Standing Committee, however, had given wildlife clearance to the Goa portion of the Goa-Tamnar Transmission Line. This, the Chief Minister said, has prompted Karnataka to reconsider its decision on clearance to the power project, as Goa had raised objections to the State's much-needed drinking water project, "despite minimum disruption to wildlife".

"The Goa Chief Wildlife Warden has passed an illegal order restraining Karnataka from undertaking any activities in the Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project. Karnataka has challenged the order of the Goa wildlife warden by filing a petition before the Supreme Court which is pending adjudication," the Chief Minister said.

A file photo of the Mahadayi river diversion project site in Belagavi district.

The Standing Committee of the NBWL, in its meeting held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Environment, Ecology and Climate Change, on July 31, 2024, deferred the proposal stating that the matter is *sub judice*. "The same standing committee in its meeting held on August 23, 2024, recommended the Goa portion of the Goa-Tamnar Transmission Line for wildlife clearance," Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out.

Power project

Talking about the status of the Goa-Tamnar power project, the Chief Minister said that in March 2024, the Karnataka government rejected the proposal which sought the diversion of 174.652 hectares of forest land in Dharwad, Haliyal, Dandeli and Belagavi division. The transmission line was 94 km, out of which 72 km of the line was to pass through Karnataka forests, including 6.6 km through the Anshi-Dandeli tiger reserve. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), in its report had recommended that the project alignments of the line should be redrawn to avoid disrupting the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats region. The Supreme Court, in its order (April 7, 2022) had approved the recommendations of the CEC.

In national interest

The Chief Minister said the Union Power Minister in his letter on August 1, 2024, assured him that instead of 72,817 trees, only 13,954 trees would be cut. Although cutting any tree in eco-sensitive zones is not desirable, in the interest of national development, "Karnataka was ready to agree in principle despite the lands crossing the elephant corridor".

"But in view of the objections raised by Goa to our legitimate and long-pending drinking water project with minimum disruption to wildlife, and the consequent litigation we have been forced into, the State has no choice but to reconsider its decision on clearance to the Goa-Tamnar power line," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Ministers seek Lokayukta probe into denotification of land by BSY

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda, Dinesh Gundu Rao, and Santosh Lad on Thursday alleged that former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy were involved the denotification of 1.11 acres at Gangenahalli in Bengaluru and demanded the Karnataka Lokayukta to conduct the probe into it.

Since 2007

The three Ministers, at a joint press conference at the party office, released documents related to the denotification of the property and alleged that both the leaders benefited from the denotification of the land, which relates to a series of developments since 2007. In 2007, Mr. Kumaraswamy attempted to denotify the land, which was acquired by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), when he was the Chief Minister. Later, it was denotified when Mr. Yediyurappa became the Chief Minister, on June 5, 2010. Both leaders benefited from it, the Ministers alleged, and demanded a thorough investigation by the Lokayukta.

Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao addressing the media in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Ministers alleged that soon after the denotification file reached the Chief Minister's office in 2007, Vimala, mother of Anitha Kumaraswamy, former MLA, registered the general power of attorney of the property. Based on the complaint by Jayakumar Hiremath, the Lokayukta had registered the case and filed an FIR in 2015. Though the High Court ordered for a probe, no investigation was conducted for the last nine years, the Ministers claimed.

'Ex-CMs should explain'

Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Kumaraswamy, who speak volumes about the alleged involvement of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites scam, should provide an explanation on the matter, the Ministers said. The current value of the property is more than ₹3 crore, Mr. Rao said.

They appealed to the Lokayukta to issue notices to Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Kumaraswamy and expedite the probe.

Former IAS officer records statement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is learnt that a retired IAS officer, who held a key position in the H.D. Kumaraswamy government in 2007 recorded his statement before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on Thursday in connection with the denotification case. The statement of the former bureaucrat is key evidence against Mr. Kumaraswamy, sources said.

Rajyotsava to be celebrated as 'Kannada Janotsava'; 69 people to get award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to hold many celebrations on the occasion of 'Karnataka Sambhrama-50', to mark the golden jubilee of the renaming of Mysore State as Karnataka on November 1, 1973. Former Chief Minister the late D. Devaraj Urs is credited with renaming Mysore State as Karnataka.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday chaired a meeting and announced that the celebrations would be conducted as 'Kannada Janotsava' by presenting the Rajyotsava Award to 69 people on November 1, Rajyotsava day.

The celebrations would be held in front of the Vidhana Soudha and the awards presented. The government would appeal to all households to hoist the Kannada flag in their houses.

Siddaramaiah

Speaking to reporters after a preliminary meeting, the Chief Minister said applications for the award would be received online till September 30. An award selection committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi.

The statue of Devaraj Urs would be unveiled at the new Deputy Commissioner's office in Mysuru on the occasion.

Statue of former CM the late D. Devaraj Urs to be unveiled at the new Deputy Commissioner's office in Mysuru to mark the occasion

Work on the 25-ft bronze statue of Bhuvaneshwari is in progress and it will be unveiled on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha on November 1. A memorial of Ramzan Sab will be installed in Ballari while a statue of Adargunchi Shankargouda will be installed in Dharwad. A statue of Andanappa Doddameti will be erected in Gadag, the Chief Minister said.

Fifty books of 100 pages each on women achievers and 100 books on various cultural aspects of Karnataka would be brought out to mark the event, he said. It was planned to hold a 'Chintana Samavesha' in Mysuru, a Gokak Movement commemoration in Raichur, a cultural festival in Jat taluk of Maharashtra, and a multicultural festival in Mangaluru by involving various academies, he said.

At the meeting, Kannada Development Authority chairman Purushottama Bilimale urged the Chief Minister to constitute an expert committee for the development of small languages such as the one spoken by the Koraga community. Mr. Tangadagi, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and heads of various academies attended the meeting.

State delegation to visit Varanasi, Haridwar to study the conduct of Ganga Aarti

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Congress government in Karnataka has plans to organise the Cauvery Aarti on the lines of the Ganga Aarti, a delegation led by Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy will embark on a three-day tour of Varanasi and Haridwar from September 20 to study how the religious ceremony is performed on the banks of the Ganga.

Besides the Minister, the study team comprises legislators P.M. Narendraswamy, Ramesh Babu Bandisidde Gowda, Ravi Kumar, K.M. Uday, Dinesh Guli Gowda, H.C. Balakrishna, Harish Gowda, Darshan Dhruvanarayan, K.M. Shivalinge Gowda, and A.R. Krishnamurthy, former MLC Appaji Gowda, Congress leaders Venkataramana Gowda ('Star' Chandru), and officials of the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced the government's plan to organise the Cauvery Aarti on the banks of the river.

High Court reserves verdict on Prajwal's pleas seeking bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday reserved its verdict on three petitions filed by former Member of Parliament Prajwal Revanna seeking bail in a rape case and anticipatory bail in a sexual assault case and another rape case registered based on separate complaints of three women.

Seeking the grant of bail in the rape case lodged based on a complaint of a former help, Senior Advocate Prabhuling K. Navadgi, appearing for Mr. Prajwal, contended that the complaint was lodged after a delay of four years without any explanation for the delay.

FSL report

He also contended that the report of the Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL) on the video related to the alleged rape, has neither confirmed the identity of the victim nor has it traced the source of the video to Mr. Prajwal. These aspects could be ascertained from the FLS report appended to the chargesheet filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), it was pointed out to the court.

Prajwal Revanna

Mr. Navadgi also contended that the former help had on an earlier occasion lodged a complaint against H.D. Revanna, father of Mr. Prajawal about the forceful eviction of her from a government-allotted house but she had not made an allegation of either sexual assault or rape.

She had not even alleged rape either in an interview given to a television channel before lodging the complaint or in her written complaint to the Holenarsipur police as the allegations then limited to only sexual assault, attracting Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code, it was argued while pointing out that the allegation of rape was introduced only by way of further statements given to the police much later.

However, Special Public Prosecutor Ravivarma Kumar contended that she could not lodge a complaint for the past four years due to the continuous threat posed by the father and son. The SPP also said that the identity of the complainant could not be matched in the FSL report as she was covering her face with her hand to protect her identity during the alleged sexual act even though genuineness of the video was established.

The SPP opposed the grant of bail stating that Mr. Prajwal is a flight risk as he had "left" the country when allegations surfaced in public domain.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who heard the arguments, reserved the verdict in all the three petitions.

Two other cases

The anticipatory bail has been sought in the rape case registered by a former member of the Hassan Zilla Panchayat, who alleged that Mr. Prajwal had repeatedly raped her and video-graphed the sexual act. In the case of sexual assault, a woman from Hassan had alleged that she took Mr. Prajwal's help for her son's admission to a school and taking advantage of that he had started to make video calls to her and coerced her to strip and recorded such scene.

Elected representatives express concern over increasing ESA in Western Ghats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Many elected representatives from the 11 districts of the Western Ghats region have expressed concern over increasing the eco-sensitive area (ESA) beyond the existing 16,114 sq. km.

Following the release of the Centre's sixth notification on August 2 regarding the ESA of the Western Ghats, the State government has to submit its stance by the end of the month.

In this regard, a meeting was convened by Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Thursday which was attended by Ministers, legislators, and parliamentarians from the 11 districts.

Many representatives expressed concern that increasing the ESA beyond the existing 16,114 sq. km would severely impact the lives of people living near forest boundaries.

"A 16,114-sq. km ESA around various forest and wildlife sites in the State has already been protected, and this limit can be accepted in line with the Kasturirangan committee report," Mr. Khandre said after the meeting.

The Kasturirangan committee report had identified 20,668 sq. km as the eco-sensitive zone in the State. However, representatives noted that a physical survey could increase this area further.

The representatives also raised concern about the displacement of people who have lived in forest areas for generations, stating that even if resettlement is offered elsewhere, these people are unlikely to move.

'State facing undeclared emergency'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shobha flays govt. after FIRs are registered against her and Ashok

Coming down heavily on the Congress government after FIRs were registered against her and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Thursday alleged that Karnataka is in a state of "undeclared emergency".

She told presspersons here that her party would continue to fight against the government's alleged "appeasement politics".

FIRs have been registered against Ms. Karandlaje and Mr. Ashok on the charge of sharing "false information" on social media in connection with the recent violence in Nagamangala town in Mandya district. "There is a kind of undeclared emergency in Karnataka. FIRs are being registered against BJP parliamentarians and legislators continuously. For the first time in the history of the State, FIRs have been registered against the Leader of the Opposition and a Central Minister, also against Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya. It looks like questioning the government is our crime. This government is murdering democracy to appease minorities. We are not scared of such threats," she said.

Questioning the government for registering FIRs against many BJP legislators, including Harish Poonja, Basangouda Patil Yatnal, Aravind Bellad, and Y. Bharath Shetty, the Union Minister sought to know why an FIR was not lodged against Congress member Ivan D'Souza, who had allegedly threatened the Governor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that our client has agreed to purchase the property from **MRS. S. JAMEELA (Jameela Sainudeen)** W/o. K. Rahim, aged about 67 Years, C/o. Rahim K, KP10 76/1, Ranjitha Cottage, Kalpana, Chittattumukku PO, Kadinamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695301, she having acquired the same vide registered Sale deed dated 05/04/2005, executed by Sri. K. Rajendran, S/o Late. V. Krishnan, registered as Document No ANK -01-00311 of 2005-06, in CD No ANKD57, in the Office of Sub registrar, Anekal, Bangalore.

Any person having any right, claim, title, interest or possession over the schedule properties may file their objection/s to the under signed with valid documentary proof, **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice and if no valid objection/s are received within above said stipulated time, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule properties with confirmation that, there are no objections or claim or title or interest or possession whatsoever nature from any person/s. Any objection received thereafter **7 days** will not be entertained and my client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned schedule Properties in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site bearing No D-336, Muthanallur Gram Panchayat Khata no 135/D/336, measuring East to West 40 feet , North to South 60 feet, Total 2400 Sq feet, situated at Kommasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the :- **East by :** Road, **West by :** Site No 337, **North by:** Road , **South by :** Site No D-335.

MR. BALARAJ.A.C., Advocates
No: No 618, 3rd Floor,
Rajaeshwari Market Building
Opp Ganesh Prasad Hotel, Avenue Road
Bangalore-560002, Ph:080-22253904
Email: mmargaret-2007@rediffmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, M/s SRI.KOLLAPURI AMMA ENTERPRISES, A Registered Partnership Having its Office at Residing at 158, 17th main, 11th cross, HSR Layout, Sector-4, Bangalore-560102; **Aadhar No: 9322 1706 4602, PAN : AALFS0654F;** Represented by its managing partner Mr.M.Surendra Reddy S/o Mr.M.Mohanrami Reddy is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claims against to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, Joint Development Agreement, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing Plot No.50-B, of Bommasandra industrial area, Situated in Sy.No.299, of Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District containing by admeasuring 4043.00 sq. meters,.

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South By : Road.

Dated this 19th day of September 2024 at Bangalore

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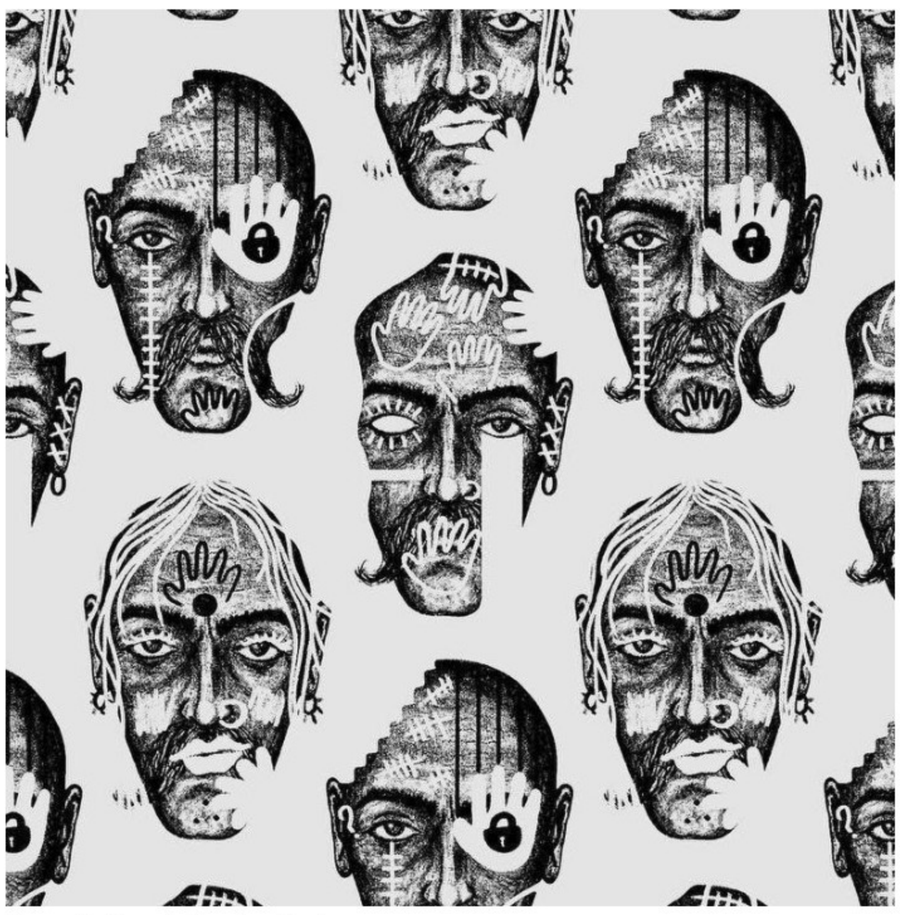
When silence becomes golden: Unique art show at Bengaluru features deaf artists

Held in connection with the International Day of Sign Languages, *Beyond Signs: Power of Gestures* at Chitrakala Parishath features eight artists

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU


Fragmented Faces by Haradeep Singh.

'If Freedom Could Talk' by Vivek Kumar.

Empowering education in Indian Sign Language by Archana Timmaraju.

Visual Utopia by Himanshu.

My ear's diagram by Janhavi Khemka.

Deaf artist Vivek Kumar's sculpture, 'If freedom could speak', screams volumes about the art as well as the artist. In place of a mouth, the sculpture features an Ashoka Chakra which symbolises freedom, movement and progress.

For Kumar, who hails from Gaya that is thought of as the birthplace of Buddhism, it's also a metaphor for a deeply personal everyday experience.

"We try to lipread to understand what hearing-people are communicating. When we lip read again and again, it feels like lots of lines moving in circular motion, like an Ashoka Chakra," he explains.

"Even though I'm deaf, I can still hear the buzzing laughter and these hues of freedom," writes the Lalit Kala Akademy award winner in the description that follows his sculpture.

It would be one of the displays at 'Beyond Signs: Power of Gestures', an art exhibition at Chitrakala Parishath featuring eight deaf artists. Held in connection with the International Day of Sign Languages it is open to the public from September 20 to 22 and is presented by EnAble India in partnership with Museum of Art and Photography (MAP).

Towards a bigger dream

"I have seen a lot of exhibitions and met so many coordinators, but I've never met a person with disability, especially a deaf person, curating or coordinating these events," notes Hardeep Singh, artist and multimedia designer at MAP.

He believes the exhibition would help to break barriers, provide more exposure to artists like him who see the world through a 'deaf lens' and inspire more people with disabilities to pursue art. His work, 'Fragmented Faces', will be featured at the exhibition.

The curator of the exhibition, Dr. Alim Chandani, has been a long-term advocate of Deaf individual rights. "Expression is something that is very difficult for deaf people. Years of oppression, lack of safe space for communication, absence of people who can empathise or understand, an education that is not on par in terms of providing accessibility, language deprivation... it's all very heavy on them."

"How we interpret what they are saying is one thing. But for them to be able to express what they have felt, their emotions and oppression, is through art. I think it's important that we foster it and find a way of communication through art."

Action Gestures by Varsha Badal.

An exhibition for all

While art provides a medium of expression for those like Singh and Kumar, often, it can be highly exclusive leaving out those with disabilities.

For example, it's not often that an art exhibition takes into consideration blind people and provides audio descriptions. Deaf artists are more than often denied opportunities by organisers who find them 'expensive' as they would require interpreters.

"As a curator for me the challenge is to make it accessible for all disabilities. How do I make sure people with visual impairment also get access? How do I ensure that wheelchair users have access? Where should the painting be placed so that they can access it? Every material and content need to be translated into ISL (Indian Sign Language)," notes Chandani who also consults for EnAble India's 'Hear a Million' initiative.

According to the exhibition organisers, audio descriptions for blind people, visual cues, volunteers to guide, tools and solutions to support communication between people with different kinds of disabilities and support for language translation have been incorporated. The exhibits have been positioned so as to be accessible for wheelchair users and children.

"It has been overwhelming, but it's also good practice for other exhibitions to take this model forward," Chandani says.

Accessibility and equity

Varsha Badal, an artist who is into print making, is one of the eight being featured at the exhibition. A deaf person herself, she has been teaching for the last eight years and notes that exclusion is a reality even today despite all the big talks about inclusion.

"When I work with children, sometimes I see that they are not able to express what they want to share. They don't have that medium. Once they have strong visuals and understand the right processes, they can grow, showcase their ideas and explain what art means to them," she notes.

However, she points out that absence of interpreters in schools and workshops and the refusal of higher authorities to understand their importance make it challenging.

Chandani adds to this noting that information shortage and inaccessibility is a real issue for deaf artists.

"We have a lot of deaf artists. But they don't get that kind of access or opportunity that hearing people do. They have to work twice or thrice as hard as hearing people to get full access or information," he notes.

The power of gestures

For a world that has designed its sytems to favour the abled ones, inclusion is easier said than done. There are more than 10 million deaf people in India, but only about 400 sign language interpreters, Chandani points out. The gap is glaringly wide.

But a cultural aspect that's unique to Indians holds the potential to narrow this gap, he feels. This is the abundant usage of gestures during conversations. Not many know that several of the common gestures used in everyday conversations in India also feature in the Indian Sign language.

For example, the gesture used for 'food' and the ISL sign for it are similar. The action used to point to places is another one. Similar is the case with words such as 'wait', 'what', 'slim', 'young', 'pray' and many more.

"A lot of people in India actually uses gestures. There is the influence of these gestures on ISL as well. It's a strong cultural influence. If people can see ISL is not something that is used only within our community and there are a lot of common gestures being used everywhere, it might help them to connect and inspire to learn ISL," says Chandani, who believes that learning basics of sign language is being inclusive.

What can stakeholders do?

What further can be done to ensure inclusivity?

Number one is consultation, says Srivatsan Sankaran, a Chennai-based travel photographer who is participating in the exhibition.

"Consult with the community when you design accessibility. The second thing is the ease in terms of accessing information. There should be a flexible framework for accessibility that should be upgraded as time progresses and technology improves," he notes.

"Another important aspect is digital accessibility. These include captions, voice-to-text, and so on. Government should focus on recent technologies and frameworks instead of outdated ones. It should be very dynamic," he adds.

"Access is different for different people. We have to think of how accessibility can be ensured for everyone. I know it's not easy, it's very hard. A hearing person once told me persons with disabilities are so expensive. Is it my fault that I am disabled? I know it's hard work for you, but we are already working double or triple hard to achieve access."

'Power of Gestures' feature Archana Timmaraju, Ashwin Babu, Hardeep Singh, Himanshu Kansal, Janhavi Khemka, Srivatsan Sankaran, Varsha Badal and Vivek Kumar, and is open to public from September 20 to 22.

Swiggy creates new career path for its delivery partners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Swiggy's new initiative, 'Project Next', is set to equip its delivery partners with skilling, training, internship, and employment opportunities in its value chain.

The initiative is the latest under 'Swiggy Skills' announced earlier this month with the Union government's Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

With Project Next, the delivery partners will take on a new role within Swiggy as sales executives; they will be responsible for onboarding and managing Swiggy's growing restaurant network, especially in tier two and tier three cities, offering restaurants high-quality support on the platform. According to a press release, the project aims to enhance restaurant expansion across more than 150 growing markets and offer delivery partners a meaningful career advancement.

Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy Food Marketplace, said, "Swiggy works with nearly 4 lakh delivery partners across the country. To empower this group, we launched Project Next under our Swiggy Skills initiative. This unique programme will help delivery partners transition from 'blue collar' to 'white collar' workers. It is heartening to see that within weeks of launch, hundreds of partners under 'Project Next' have already onboarded over 360 restaurants."

Ravindra Khati, a 27-year-old delivery partner with Swiggy, is now a sales executive in Sikar, Rajasthan. "My role at Swiggy has sparked my interest in a career within the private sector, and I can now envision myself thriving in this environment," he expressed.

The University of Leeds leads the way for Indian students

Dr. Piruthivi Sukumar Dean of the International Faculty of Medicine & Health, University of Leeds spoke on how medical education has evolved in India and the U.K.

Sona Christy
BENGALURU

We are organising a health research convention, which comprises a couple of workshops, community-based learning, and also cardiac care. We also included a one-day seminar on medical education, how medical education has evolved in India and the U.K., and what we can learn from each other" said Dr. Piruthivi Sukumar Dean of the International Faculty of Medicine & Health, University of Leeds during his interaction with *The Hindu*.

According to him, India has advanced considerably, and the world can learn a lot from the country especially in

"I encourage fifth-year medical students to spend up to six weeks in India to learn about Indian health systems," says Dr. Piruthivi Sukumar.

the field of international medicine, he applauded that, "We need to showcase that more, I think. Hence, I encourage fifth-year medical students to spend up to six weeks in India to learn about Indian health systems," he said. He also goes into why Indian doctors are highly paid and respected in foreign countries. "When I was doing my internship after MBBS (in India), I used to see 200-300 patients a day, outpatients, " he said. In the West, on the other hand, patient volume is much less. "The experience our healthcare staff get is a huge thing."

He also went into the nuances of healthcare in the U.K. and what India can offer to it. "Health is under the Government's National Health Service. It has a lot of Indian doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, " he said adding that bringing in students from the U.K. will help them to understand India better and what India can offer, especially in the medicine and health area. Our strength is in our numbers" he said.

He also commented on the huge talent pool of students excelling in multiple disciplines in India and why it needs to be showcased more. "I want to also say that the quality of our educational institutions has grown by leaps and bounds, which is not very well recognized or understood by the Western world," he said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 21, 1974

Mineral Resources of Chikmagalur

Chikmagalur, Sept. 20: Chikmagalur District abounds in natural resources which could be exploited for the planned development of the State. Except the mineral resources, forest and water resources are being utilised in one form or the other. In Chikmagalur district, half the area consists of Dharwar schists and the rest consists of various granites and gneisses.

The Dharwar schists occur in two well-declined belts—the Bababudan range and in Gangamoola and Kudermukh regions. The minerals that are found in the district are iron ore, Ferruginous Bauxite, gold, kasalin, mica, ruby, corrundum, asbestos, clay, limestone, China clay and chromite. Near Kallathagiri and Kemmangundy on the Babaudna Hills, iron ore is being mined and removed for the Mysore Iron and Steel Works at Bhadravathi- Huge deposits of low-grade magnetic ore are available in the Kudermukh region.

These deposits were first mentioned by the Mysore Geologist, Dr. Sampath Iyengar in 1913. But with their low iron content, it was thought that they had hardly any potential for commercial exploitation in the face of the other high-grade deposits which were available elsewhere in the State. Modern technology has made it possible to work even such low-grade ore and produce marketable iron ore pellets.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

A memorial in Arjuna's name

Arjuna, the tall tusker which led the Dasara jumbo squad for many years, will be missed this Dasara.
Arjuna died in a fight with a wild elephant in December last year. The Forest Department has proposed a memorial in Arjuna's name at the site where he was buried in Sakleshpur and also at its camp in Balle.

The oldest and the youngest

Among the 14 elephants chosen for the famed Dasara festivities in Mysuru, Varalakshmi of Bheemanakatte camp is the oldest. Standing 2.36 meters tall, the female elephant is 68 years old. She has been a part of the Dasara squad for many years. The youngest in the jumbo team is Rohit from Ramapura camp. The 2.7-foot-tall Rohit is aged 22 years.

Ekalavya from Mattigodu camp

Ekalavya, the 39-year-old elephant from Mattigodu camp, is making its debut for the first time in Mysuru Dasara-2024. The 2.88-metre tall tusker that weighed 4,000 to 4,200 kilos on arrival in Mysuru from its camp has been successfully taking part in the rehearsals for Jamboo Savari. The Forest Department chose the jumbo taking into consideration various factors.

Abhimanyu's fourth year as lead elephant

All eyes are on the 58-year-old Abhimanyu which carries the 750-kilo golden howdah on the day of Vijayadashami when lakhs of people turn up to Mysuru to watch the festivities. This is Abhimanyu's fourth year as the Dasara lead elephant. The tusker from Mattigodu camp has been a big attraction for the tourists, because of its fame as the 'howdah' elephant.

Fourteen chosen for the festivities

Abhimanyu (58), Dhananjaya (33), Mahendra (41), Bheema (24), Gopi (42), Prashantha (51), Sugreeva (42), Kanjan (25), Rohit (22), Ekalavya (39), Varalakshmi (68), Lakshmi (23), Doddaharave Lakshmi (53), and Hiranya (47) are the Dasara elephants. The Forest Department has shortlisted 18 elephants, and 14 were chosen for the festivities.

The jumbos are back in Mysuru for Dasara

The elephants are the star attraction of the Nada Habba, and tourists come to watch these gentle giants that make the celebrations awe-inspiring

Shankar Bennur
MYSURU

Dasara is around the corner and the elephants are back in the Mysuru from various jungle camps, gearing up for the festivities that commence from October 3.

Led by the "perfectionist" tusker Abhimanyu, which has been leading the Dasara jumbo squad, performing the tasks of carrying the 750-kilo golden howdah with finesse and ease during the finale of the celebrations, the elephants are being trained for the big day, with the forest officials and their caretakers monitoring their preparation and well-being. Veterinarians closely monitor their health.

The elephants are the star attraction of the Nada Habba, and tourists come to watch these gentle giants that make the celebrations awe-inspiring. Their arrival in Mysuru signals the countdown to Dasara.

Nine elephants headed by Abhimanyu arrived in August as a part of Gajapayana from Veeranahosahalli on the outskirts of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve and the second batch of five elephants joined the team early this month and all of them are undergoing Dasara drills. The elephants are camping on the palace premises, rehearsing for the Vijayadashami procession. Their caretakers, including the mahouts, kavadis and their family members are also camping alongside them. All of them leave after the Dasara finale.

The caparisoned elephants got a ceremonial reception when they stepped into the palace premises. The ambience was festive and cultural troupes made the occasion impressive. Tourists thronged the palace vicinity to get the glimpse of the jumbos.

People throng the procession route in Mysuru to watch the Dasara elephants when they come out of the palace for their routine rehearsal for the Dasara finale. M.A. SRIRAM

The 14-member squad

Abhimanyu (58), Dhananjaya (33), Mahendra (41), Bheema (24), Gopi (42), Prashantha (51), Sugreeva (42), Kanjan (25), Rohit (22), Ekalavya (39), Varalakshmi (68), Lakshmi (23), Doddaharave Lakshmi (53), and Hiranya (47) are the elephants jumbos camping in Mysuru. After going through the profile of the elephants from various camps, the Forest Department shortlisted 18 elephants, and 14 were chosen for the festivities.

Among the 14 elephants, Varalakshmi of Bheemanakatte camp is the oldest. Standing 2.36 meters tall, the female elephant is 68 years old. She has been a part of the Dasara squad for many years. The youngest in the jumbo team is Rohit from Ramapura camp. The 2.70-foot-tall Rohit is aged 22 years.

While five elephants are from Dubare camp, four are from Mattigodu camp, three from Ramapura camp, one each from Bheemakatte and Doddaharave camps. Prashanth is the tallest among all the Dasara elephants. The 51-year-old tusker from Dubare camp in Kodagu is three meters tall. This will be the first Dasara for Ekalavya, who is from Mattigodu camp.

Tusker Ekalavya ready to make its Dasara debut in Mysuru this year. M.A. SRIRAM

What they weigh

On arrival, the weight of jumbos was checked. Abhimanyu weighed around 5,000 kilos. Gopi weighed between 4,900 kilos and 5,000 kilos. Sugreeva weighed between 4,800 kilos and 5,000 kilos. The lightweight among the jumbos is Lakshmi, who weighed between 2.400 kilos and 2,500 kilos, followed by Hiranya, who weighed between 2,800 kilos and 3,000 kilos. Their weight is also checked when they leave for their respective camps after Dasara. The elephants, their mahouts and kavadis have been insured. Besides, forest officials and the staff who are associated with the management and training of elephants are also covered under the insurance. Deputy Conservator of Forest (Mysuru wildlife division) Prabhu Gowda said all 14 elephants, including four on standby, have been insured for a sum of ₹50 lakh. The total insured sum of elephants, mahouts, kavadis, their families, forest officials and staff is around ₹2.5 crore Damage to public property is also covered under the insurance as a precautionary measure. A premium of ₹71,000 has been paid for the policy.

Traffic movement on the roads come to a standstill when the gentle giants set out on the streets for the practice drill. The police and the forest department ensure the jumbos remain calm. Prior to Jamboo Savari, the lead elephant undergoes weight carrying training with sandbags and a wooden replica of the howdah having the same mass as Ambari on its back as a part of rehearsal for the big day. Other tuskers in the squad also carry out these tasks as standby.

Abhimanyu, the all-rounder

Abhimanyu is considered an "all-rounder" because of his expertise in tracking a target jumbo. The tusker subdues wild elephants with ease. Abhimanyu is best known for his astuteness in the operations for capturing elephants and aged and injured wild tigers straying out of forests. Abhimanyu has been a part of the operations that captured 140-150 wild elephants and 40-50 tigers over the years.

The 58-year-old Abhimanyu has an experience of over two decades as a Dasara jumbo, when it became a part of the elite squad in 2012. Vasantha J.S. is its mahout and Raju J.K. is the kavadi.

Forest staff ensure the Dasara elephants are not disrtracted during their routine 'taleem' on the streets.

Forest department staff and jumbo caretakers ensure the Dasara elephants get nutrition-rich diet during their stay in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

Byelection to Dakshina Kannada, Udupi Local Authorities' Constituency to be held on October 21

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada M.P. Mullai Muhilan addressing a press conference in Mangaluru on Thursday. H.S. MANJUNATH

The byelection to Karnataka Legislative Council from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Local Authorities' Constituency will be held on October 21. The voting will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The counting of votes will be done on October 24.

The Election Commission of India said on Thursday that the notification for the byelection will be issued on September 26. Last date for filing nominations is October 3. Nominations will be scrutinised on October 4. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 7.

The Commission said that the model code of conduct for the byelection came into effect immediately from Thursday.

The byelection will be held to the seat vacated by Kota Srinivas Poojary, who has been elected as the Lok Sabha member from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency.

The vacancy was created on June 15 following Mr. Poojary's resignation to the Council. His term in the Council was till January 5, 2028.

Mr. Poojary was first elected as an MLC from the same constituency in the 2009 byelection following the death of the then incumbent MLC and Congress leader Blasius M. D'Souza in 2008. Later, he was elected to the council for the full term from the same constituency in 2010, 2016 and in 2021.

Addressing presspersons in Mangaluru, Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada M.P. Mullai Muhilan said that the twin districts have 6,037 voters with 392 polling booths. Of the voters, 3,551 voters are in Dakshina Kannada and 2,486 voters are in Udupi district.

Dakshina Kannada has 234 polling booths, while Udupi district has 158 booths. The DC said of 234 local bodies in Dakshina Kannada, 223 are gram panchayats, five town panchayats, three town municipalities, two city municipalities and one city corporation. Of 3,580 seats (members), 29 seats are vacant.

Of 158 local bodies in Udupi district, 153 are gram panchayats, three are town municipalities, one is town panchayat and another one is city municipality. Of 2,490 seats (members), four seats are vacant.

Shukkoor case: Court rejects CPI(M) leaders' discharge plea

The CBI Special Court has asked P. Jayarajan and T.V. Rajesh to face trial in the murder case; the decision will be challenged before the Kerala High Court, says counsel for the CPI(M) leaders

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

It is alleged that Shukkoor was killed for being part of a mob that reportedly threw stones at P. Jayarajan's car. FILE PHOTO

The CBI Special Court, Kochi has asked Communist Party of India (Marxist) leaders P. Jayarajan and T.V. Rajesh to face the trial in the case booked in connection with the alleged criminal conspiracy hatched to kill Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) worker Abdul Shukkoor.

The discharge petition filed by the duo was dismissed by the court on Thursday. Special court judge, P Sabarinathan, dismissed the discharge petition filed by the Left leaders. The petition was filed in January 2023.

The Central Bureau of Investigation took over the investigation in the case from the Crime Branch following an order by the Kerala High Court on a petition filed by Atthikka, mother of Shukkoor. She was represented by Muhammad Shah.

The murder case had kicked up a political uproar in northern Kerala.

Prosecution case

The prosecution case was that Shukkoor was allegedly killed by a group of CPI (M) workers on February 20, 2012, and the conspiracy was hatched in room number 315 of Cooperative Hospital, Taliparamba. It was further alleged that the CPI(M) workers killed Shukkoor for allegedly being part of a mob that reportedly pelted stones at a car in which Mr. Jayarajan was travelling.

The prosecution also alleged that Shukoor was caught and interrogated for over two hours, and his photo was sent via mobile to confirm his presence in the mob that attacked the CPI(M) convoy.

The legal grounds for rejecting the discharge petition of the accused will be known when the court order is available in the public domain. The decision of the trial court will be challenged before the Kerala High Court, said K. Viswan, counsel for the CPI (M) leaders.

(With PTI inputs)

MiTran to host webinar for students

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MiTran Global is scheduled to organise a webinar titled 'Positive Mind Mastery Workshop' for students aged between 11 and 17 and their parents.

According to a press release, the webinar will offer an immersive, engaging experience that will transform not just how teens think, but also how parents can support their growth. The workshop focuses on equipping both parents and teens with the skills needed to cultivate positivity, resilience, and goal-oriented behaviour.

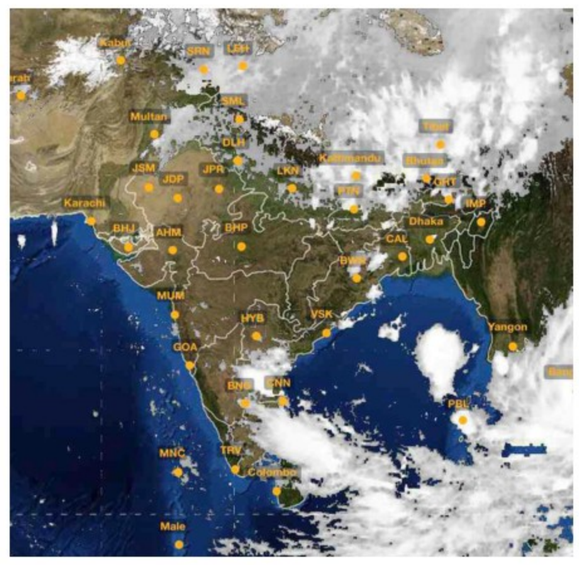
When both parents and teens attend together, it creates a supportive environment where shared understanding is nurtured. The key takeaways for the attendees of the workshop will be on building emotional resilience, accelerating learning methodologies, practical study strategies, negating digital influence, goal-setting, visualisation and positive affirmations, and self-talk, the release said.

Vidyashankar Guru, co-founder and chief vision officer of MiTran Global, a speaker and author with over two decades of experience in training students, teachers, and parents from 40 different nationalities, will be the speaker. *The Hindu In School* is the media partner for the workshop which is scheduled on Saturday and Sunday. Parents along with their children aged between 11 and 17 can attend one of four slots. The workshop duration is two hours.

The first 25 registered participants will receive a free e-book titled *7 Ways to Empower Your Child to be a SuperAchiever in School and Life*. Those who want to participate can register online at https://hub.mitranglobal.online/pmm and choose a slot. For assistance, contact +91 74832 60618 or positivity-hub@mitranglobal.com.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh. Squally weather likely to prevail over gulf of Mannar, off Sri Lanka coast and most parts of south Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.6	28.6	Kozhikode	—	34.3	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	35.0	25.9	Kurnool	—	35.6	24.6
Aizawl	0.5	35.4	25.1	Lucknow	29	33.7	24.5
Allahabad	44	34.0	24.7	Madurai	—	39.7	25.6
Bengaluru	—	31.1	20.4	Mangaluru	—	31.0	24.5
Bhopal	—	31.7	22.0	Mumbai	—	32.3	25.8
Bhubaneswar	—	33.0	25.0	Mysuru	—	32.3	20.0
Chandigarh	0.3	33.8	25.4	New Delhi	10	32.0	21.1
Chennai	—	35.6	27.2	Patna	—	36.0	27.8
Coimbatore	—	34.4	22.6	Port Blair	123	29.3	23.2
Dehradun	5	33.6	20.8	Puducherry	—	36.7	26.4
Gangtok	0.2	26.3	19.0	Pune	—	32.0	23.1
Goa	6	31.7	23.8	Raipur	—	33.1	24.2
Guwahati	—	38.0	25.8	Ranchi	—	31.4	21.4
Hubballi	—	31.0	22.0	Shillong	0.5	28.1	18.6
Hyderabad	—	33.6	22.9	Shimla	1	26.5	18.5
Imphal	—	33.7	21.3	Srinagar	—	25.0	14.1
Jaipur	0.7	29.2	22.7	Thiruvananthapuram	4	32.7	24.2
Kochi	—	30.8	24.8	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.4
Kohima	11	29.0	17.3	Vijayawada	—	36.6	26.2
Kolkata	—	35.2	27.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	28.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..31	19	... 120	96	
Bengaluru	.15	..39	57	..... —	...136	
Chennai	.17	3	29	 74	...174	
Delhi	...9	..74	84	 67	66	
Hyderabad	.41	..63	26	 71	...104	
Kolkata	...5	..72	51	 89	...104	
Lucknow	.11	8	70	 33	78	
Mumbai	...3	..25	41	 78	...117	
Pune	.16	..18	67	 76	94	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..48	12	... 158	...164	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Araria, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 264 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/AEE(C)/2024-25/4517-20 Date: 18.09.2024

KPTCL invites bids from the eligible bidders through "Karnataka Public Procurement Portal" to execute the work of **Arranging Tower Protection work to conventional type Tower No.15** pertaining to Peenya-Subramanyapura 220kV Transmission line at Vijayanandanagara, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru under the jurisdiction of the Superintending Engineer(Ele), Transmission (Maint.), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru.

The detailed tender notification regarding details of works, general conditions of contract, NIT, Instructions to Tenderers (ITT), EMD, SD, etc., can be obtained by website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kptcl.karnarnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** on or after **21.09.2024.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission(Maintenance),BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Ground Floor, Office Complex, Anandarao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SADALAGA
Taluk: Chikkodi, Dist.: Belagavi

No.: TMCS/SFC(SPL)/SBM(2.0)/2024 Date : 17-9-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP-Portal)

The Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Sadalaga here by inviting tenders to carry out various works under Special Grant year 2023-2024 and SBM 2.0 DPR Grant schemes year 2023-24 from eligible civil / Electrical contractors registered with Public Works Department/Zilla Panchayat Engineering and other departments. Eligible material suppliers as per standard tender document K.W.-1, KW-3 and KG-1 Details are as follows: **Works Indent No.: 29867, 23663/Call-2 and Goods Indent No. 2391/Call-3.** Estimate Cost : 1.80 lacks to 85.00 lakhs. Time Limit : 3 Months to 15 days months including Mansoon. Last date for submission of filled tenders 03.10.2024 at 4.30 p.m., Date of Opening of Technical Bids : 05-10-2024 at 11.00 a.m. Date of Opening of Financial Bids : 07-10-2024 at 11.00 a.m. For further information Login to www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Logon to www.sadalagatown.mrc.in or contact the TMC Office.

Note : Any changes or correction in tenders will be notified in online website only.

Sd/- Shri Shivanand V. Bhosale, Chief Officer, TMC Sadalaga
Sd/- Shri Subhash S. Sampagavi, Administrator, TMC Sadalaga

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashoknagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520007

Mktg/M2/ Proc & Supply to Welfare Hostels/2024 Date: 19.09.2024

TENDER NOTICE (2nd Call)

ZONE WISE BIDS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF RED CHILLI POWDER, TURMERIC POWDER, TAMARIND, AND SAMBAR POWDER FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 2024 TO MARCH 2025 TO THE MLS POINTS OF APSCSCL IN (04) DISTRICTS OF AP STATE FOR SUPPLY TO THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT THROUGH NCDEX E-MARKETS LIMITED (NeML) AUCTION PLATFORM.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of **252.516 MTs** of Red Chilli Powder, Turmeric Powder, Tamarind, And Sambar Powder in multiple packings with secondary packing in 50 Kg new polypropylene (PP) bags for Supply to the Welfare Department for the period of Six (06) months i.e., from **October 2024 to March 2025** to the MLS Points of Four (04) districts i.e. Palnadu, Bapatla, Prakasam and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh State.

All the interested Suppliers/Contractors in All Over India may visit **www.apscscl.in & www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e., in NCDEX e Markets Limited for Supply. Contact Tel: 9962059599 or 9032429420 or 9885549722 and **Email: askus@neml.in**

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to **26.09.2024 up to 5 PM** and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through NCDEX e Markets Limited platform would be **27.09.2024, 11:00 AM onwards.**

Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಮ.ನ.ಪಾ.ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಲಾಲ್‌ಬಾಗ್, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಇವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ.
E-mail: adtourismmangalore@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0824-2453926
ಸಂ:ಪ್ರ/ಇ/ಉನಿಕ/ದಕಜಿ/ಮಂ//2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-09-2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಮಿತಿಯಿಂದ ತಣ್ಣೀರುಬಾವಿ ಬ್ಲೂ ಫ್ಲ್ಯಾಗ್ ಕಡಲ ತೀರವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಲೀಸ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಏಕೀಕೃತ ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** ನಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನವಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-09-2024** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-10-2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಮಿತಿ
ದ.ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/648/24-25 dt. 19.09.2024

Government of Karnataka
District Health And Family Welfare Officer Koppal

No: Store/09/2024-25/1344 Date: 19.09.2024

Re-Tender Publication

Medical Equipment Sanctioned under Kalyana-karnataka Region Development Scheme 2023-24, Re-Tender are invited from Manufacturer or from authorized Supplier to Supply the required Equipments. Tender documents can be download at e-Portal Website (https.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Indent No: DHFWS/2024-25/IND0864/ Call-2. **Name Of the Equipment:** Medical Equipment Video Guide Laproscope with Monitor for Taluka Hospital Kushtagi & Various Government Hospitals of Kushtagi Taluka. **Amount(in Lakhs):** 126.00 Tender Noticication Date: **19-09-2024.** Starting Date for Downloading Tender Document : **20-09-2024.** Last Date for Submission of Objections **: 21-09-2024.** Last Date for Tender Upload : **27-09-2024 at 5.30 PM.** Technical Bid Opening Date : **30-09-2024 at 11.00 AM.** Financial Bid Opening Date : **03-10-2024 at 4.00 PM.**

Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/395/KSMCA/2024-25

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560001

No.: DDA(FM&MI)/FM RfP/Drone/2024-25 Date: 19.09.2024

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture invites Short Term Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers for supply of Kisan Drones to farmers under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers. The interested OEM / Manufactures who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

The interested OEM of Kisan Drones / Manufacturers can download the RfP document through e-Procurement platform free of cost by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for RFP can be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **20.09.2024** to **07.10.2024.** The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is **07.10.2024 at 4:30 p.m.** The Technical proposals will be opened on **09.10.2024** at **11:00 a.m.** in Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001.

The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Proposals along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the **Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001** upto **4:30 p.m.,** on **Dt: 08.10.2024.**

The interested Manufacturers / OEM have to register at the e-procurement cell, **Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001** and obtain the DSC key or e-token **(Helpdesk: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777).**

NOTE: e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/-, Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/LC/2074/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Director (Animal Husbandry),
N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No.JD/AH/PR/212/2024-25 Date: 19-09-2024

Tender Notification

BBMP invites Proposals from eligible bidders for PROVIDING MANPOWER SERVICES TO BBMP CATTLE POUND, CATTLE CATCHING VEHICLE AND ANIMAL RESQUE & SQUAD VEHICLES.

Following are the Events of Bid process:

1.	**RFP Reference No.**	**BBMP/2024-25/SE/SE0964**
2.	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 19.09.2024 onwards
3.	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	21.09.24 at 11:00 a.m. at the following venue: OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY), N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
4.	Last date and time for uploading of RFP in Kpp Portal	26.09.2024 up to 5:00 p.m.
5.	Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in Kpp Portal	27.09.2024 at 5:10 p.m.
6.	Place of Opening of Applications	Online at Kpp Portal
7.	Address for Communication	OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY), N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002. Phone: 080-22130782 E-mail: jointdirector01@gmail.com

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-, Joint Director (Animal Husbandry), N. R. Square, BBMP.

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/AEE-1/Tender-14/2024-25 Date: 19.09.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Providing Borewell, Repair / Electrical Repair works in various Districts of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 175, 188/call-2, 192/call-2, 193/call-2, 195/call-2, 199/call-2, 259, 320/call-2 and 329)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **19.09.2024.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **03.10.2024**. The details may be viewed in the above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer-1 KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/2064/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga

e-Tender Notice No.: WPSS/A2/Survey/e-tender/CR-16/2024-25 E-151215 Date: 17.09.2024

Short-Term Re e-Tender Notice Through e-procurement

Short-Term Re e-Tenders are invited through e-procurement for implementation of Survey/Re Survey of notified forest areas of various zones of Shivamogga, Sagar, Bhadravathi, Shivamogga Wildlife Division and Mangaluru, Kundapura and Kudremukh Wildlife Divisions for the year 2024-25, for 57 works of total approx. amount of Rs. 176.865 lakhs. Interested, eligible Forest Contractors can submit tenders on evening of 25.09.2024 as per e-Portal.

Can participate in the tender by confirming the details as published in the e-Administrative Center or website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) For more information this office can be contacted during office hours on Phone No.: 08182-250785 or mobile no. 9481990223.

Sd/- (Gnanananda. S) Assistant Conservator of Forests, Office of The Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/92/09/705

Milestones and U-turns

The optics of the 100-day mark cannot conceal changed dynamics for the BJP

As their third term in office gathers pace, the Narendra Modi government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are eager to claim a seamless continuity with the first two terms, as a mark of effective governance and leadership. The government and the party have used the arbitrary 100-day milestone to showcase their achievements in various sectors, from renewable energy to infrastructure, and the successes of welfare schemes. They have also used the opportunity to pronounce that nothing has changed, despite the dependence of the government on a coalition in the 18th Lok Sabha. As if to prove the point that there is no rethink on any of its controversial agendas from the previous terms, the Union Cabinet, on Wednesday, approved a report by a committee headed by the former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, that has endorsed a partisan BJP proposal for simultaneous elections to all State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. The government has also made it clear that it will work towards a Uniform Civil Code, and continue to push for the expansion of Hindi over English. BJP functionaries are putting on a brave face but cannot wish away the new reality of coalition politics, and the changed dynamics in the party and the larger Sangh Parivar since the results of the 2024 general election.

Stability and continuity at policy and political levels are signs of good governance, but so are negotiations, compromises and consensus in a diverse democracy. In governance, as in driving, proactive and defensive approaches go together, and U-turns are wise when racing ahead can lead to a collision. The BJP has quietly learnt this lesson, though it is unwilling to own up its own new flexibility. Rigidity has been talked up as a sign of virtuous politics by strong man populism around the world, and the BJP is now haunted by the ghost of its own past bombast. On some major policy issues, the BJP has made course corrections after resistance from allies and the Opposition. It has extended the consultation on the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, abandoned the new pension scheme and the proposed lateral entry scheme in the high bureaucracy. These are areas in need of reforms, but they can be best achieved by openness and flexibility. The BJP's rigidity on issues has also begotten equally rigid resistance from the Opposition, which is no good for governance. Similarly, the BJP itself is increasingly becoming a coalition rather than an ideological monolith. It is good that the leadership has realised this. It will be better if it also articulates this more honestly.

Wrong notion

The idea of simultaneous elections is inherently anti-federal

Notwithstanding the opposition from political parties and many in civil society to the idea of simultaneous elections, the Union government has decided to accept the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to go ahead with the scheme. The committee envisaged simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections as the first step, followed by municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election. In order to do so, the government would need to get constitutional amendments to be passed, in Parliament and in the State Assemblies. Two key reasons have been evinced for the proposal – first, the costs of conducting these elections would be significantly reduced if held together, and, second, not having simultaneous elections has kept political parties in prolonged campaign mode, impacting governance and legislative work. There has been little to no empirical data to support the first reason. Already, general elections take an inordinately long time, with some State polls being held in phases. Simultaneous elections could prolong this process. One of the committee's recommendations is that if a State Assembly gets dissolved before five years of its term, after the "appointed date" – the date for synchronising Lok Sabha and Assembly elections – fresh "midterm" elections will be held but the new Assembly's will not have a full five-year tenure. Its tenure will end five years from the "appointed date". This provision militates against the original idea of cost cutting through simultaneous elections. It is also an anti-federal idea.

In a multi-tiered governance system, people choose their representatives based on their perception of who is best suited. The power being demarcated for different levels of government allows for distinct roles for each representative and suggests varied voter choices that could be based on party affiliation, candidate strength, ideological positions or socio-economic reasons that are constituency-specific. Each tier has its exclusive importance and so does the related election. The second reason, that representatives are in perennial campaign mode and, therefore, polls to every tier should all be held during the same period, is problematic. For one, that national representatives of parties are forever in campaign mode is a consequence of the centralising tendencies of parties that are in power today and is not a reflection of the extant electoral democratic system. Second, subsuming multi-tier elections into simultaneous mode has the potential to reduce the importance of each tier, especially the Assembly and municipal/panchayat levels, and is anti-federal. Lastly, to effect this proposal, the tenures of quite a few State governments will have to be cut short. Parties and civil society actors committed to federalism must squarely reject this proposal by the Union government.

India's place in Russia-Ukraine peace-making

Suhasini Haidar

Two years after the Government of India held that "Europe's problems are not the world's problems" to distance New Delhi from the theatre of the Russia-Ukraine war, speculation about its determination to help resolve the war has gained traction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv, a possible meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the United Nations next week and with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the BRICS Summit next month, as well as the travels of National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar all point in this direction.

The fact that Mr. Modi "briefed" United States President Joseph Biden in a phone call after the Ukraine visit, and Mr. Doval told Mr. Putin that he had been tasked to "brief" him about the visit as well when he met him in St. Petersburg last week indicate that India is engaging with all parties and developing its role as an interlocutor.

The question then is how far does Mr. Modi's plan to play peacemaker stretch? And where can India's role be most effective?

India's role, the full picture

India's advantages and reasons for playing such a role are many – it is one of the few countries that is engaging both sides of the geopolitical schism over Ukraine, i.e., the West as well as the Eurasian leadership. India's long-held beliefs on non-alignment and strategic autonomy, which the Modi government has largely carried forward during the war with its abstention votes at the UN and refusal to accept western sanctions, help its image as an "honest broker" or mediator.

India is an important voice for the Global South and it succeeded in ensuring its G-20 presidency focused on war outcomes such as energy and food security that matter to the developing world rather than the war itself. As a result, the increase in India's intake of Russian oil, leading to a six-fold increase in bilateral trade, has been projected as an assertion of its principles rather than profiteering.

In his third term, Mr. Modi would no doubt like to build a global legacy, much like India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was able to do by mediating between the USSR and Austria for the withdrawal of Soviet troops in exchange for a policy of neutrality, or by India leading international efforts and UN commissions on wars in Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia.

If it does essay such a role, the government would need a thorough assessment of the situation, beginning with a study of the state of war in Ukraine. Russian troops remain entrenched in about a sixth of territory of the country for more than two years now, while Ukrainian forces are successfully holding the line outside of these areas. This indicates that any change in the status quo could come only from a massive escalation in the war. Mr. Zelenskyy's move to occupy Russian territory in Kursk was a novel tactic, but was perhaps only meant to be used as a bargaining chip or "leverage" as the Ukrainian President put it, in future negotiations. As he heads to New York next week, Mr. Zelenskyy will be seeking a further escalation: western permissions for the long-range Storm Shadow missiles, and Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACM) for airstrikes deep inside Russia, which he believes is receiving lethal weaponry from Iran and North Korea. Mr. Putin has said in no uncertain terms that if the West clears the request, it would be a declaration of direct war between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Russia. An alternative outcome could also arise from the U.S. elections on November 5 – a win for former U.S. President Donald Trump may mean the U.S. curtails its expenditure in support of Ukraine, seen positively by Mr. Putin, and more sobering for Ukraine and Europe, while a win for U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris will indicate continuity in the U.S.'s support.

> There are indications that New Delhi is engaging with all parties and developing its role as an interlocutor but there are the 'ifs, ands, or buts'

An offering that would have to stand out

Second, New Delhi would need to offer its own proposal for conflict resolution or de-escalation taking into account that there are already a number of proposals in the arena, all of which have been rejected by one side or the other. Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy have rejected each other's proposals, that involve giving up territory on the ground. Mr. Putin rejected the Bürgenstock Communiqué, that India also disassociated from, which dwelt on the issues of nuclear safety, humanitarian access and the exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Zelenskyy recently rejected the six-point Brazil-China joint proposal that proposed the same measures towards a path of "de-escalation". China has, in the past year successfully brokered agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia and Hamas and Fatah. Hungary too, a country with access to both sides, made a ceasefire proposal which has been rejected by Ukraine.

Summing up India's position in Berlin last week, Mr. Jaishankar listed a four-point principle: This is not the era of war; there are no solutions on the battlefield; Russia must be at the table for talks; and India is concerned and engaged to find a resolution to the conflict. While these principles are incontrovertible, they are by no means a concrete proposal, and India will need to work on a more comprehensive vision of its path to peace.

The next step would be to study what India's role would be. During their conversation, Mr. Zelenskyy told Mr. Modi that India is simply too large and important a country to seek a role as "messenger" between Moscow and Kyiv. In any case, recent rounds of prisoner exchanges between the two countries make it amply clear that there are enough channels to relay information between them.

A larger role would imply India serving as a mediator or even the host for a summit between the two sides, although given India's recusal from the Swiss Peace Summit outcome, may be a task left to one of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries that have been a part of the process thus far. Whatever the decision, this is an exercise that will require India to use its heft, diplomatic goodwill and other resources apart from intensified travel by officials, Ministers and the Prime Minister focused on discussing solutions to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Consistency would be the key word

At a time when the government is dealing with internal conflicts including Manipur, revving up the economy through international engagement, regional turbulence and a host of other important issues, it could justifiably question the need to spend its resources on this conflict. Externally, when civilian casualties from Israel's bombardment of Gaza or from the civil war in Sudan are far more than those estimated to be non-military casualties in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the question over which conflict India chooses to intervene in poses a challenge. In addition, India will be judged on the consistency of its message- if "dialogue and diplomacy" are indeed the "only way forward", then it is difficult to account for the Modi government's refusal to consider an opening with Pakistan, for example.

Eventually, the balance of the pull and push factors will decide how far New Delhi will go as a peace-maker in the war that has consumed Europe and the U.S. for more than 30 months. As a country of considerable consequence in the world, one that straddles the West and the east, the Global North and South, and as the only country that is member of both the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, United States) and BRICS, India is uniquely positioned. The critical element is the timing of its foray into a field that has, thus far, only seen failure. As the late Israeli interlocutor Abba Eban once said in words that are as true for the conflict he attempted to resolve as they are for the Russia-Ukraine war: "History teaches us that men and nations only behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives."

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

Acclamation for an Indian leadership that still endures

Vivek Katju

a retired Indian Foreign Service officer

During his state visit to India last month (August 19-21, 2024), Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim delivered a lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs on August 20. Its subject was "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties". Mr. Anwar dwelt on his vision of the Global South – its unity amidst "all our diversity, differences and discretions". More importantly, he said that the rise of the Global South is not "meant to exclude the Global North" but to "work together as equals within our complex strategic contexts".

High praise

He praised India's role in imparting energy to the evolution of the positions of the Global South which, he said, were in keeping with the principle of cooperating with the Global North. As he put it, "And to me, India has welcomed this reality with grace, fore-vision, and most importantly, a plan. India's excellent G20 Chairmanship last year and the inaugural Voice of Global South Summits made it amply clear that India is prepared to shape the Global South agenda with its partners, hand in hand".

This high praise came from a leader whose scholarship and intellectualism, is acknowledged worldwide. This is a scholarship and intellectualism that has been honed through years of political experience, suffering and study, which has seen Mr. Anwar's evolution from Islamism to a commitment to inclusivism. This would have been music to the ears of the Narendra Modi government but not so his references to India's leadership that emerged from the freedom movement and the leader who gave shape to the Republic in its formative years – Jawaharlal Nehru. Mr. Anwar's words about Nehru illustrate that despite all the efforts of the Sangh Parivar, Nehru's reputation abroad has not been tarnished. The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Sangh have left no stone unturned in going after Nehru. Indeed, he is held responsible for almost all of the current national ills. But what Mr. Anwar says on Nehru is indicative of how large numbers globally continue to view him.

> The Malaysian Prime Minister's speech in India, with its references to Vivekananda, the Mahatma, Tagore and Nehru, is a pointer to how the world still holds them in high esteem

Mr. Anwar recalled Nehru's association with Malaysia's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and thereafter spoke evocatively about Nehru. It is only if his words are quoted fully that their meaning comes through. He said, "Whither do we go and what shall be our endeavour?" As we all know, that is the question that Pandit Nehru posed in his 'A Tryst With Destiny' speech, and so succinctly answered: "To bring freedom and opportunity to the common man, to the peasants and workers of India; to fight and end poverty and ignorance and disease; to build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation, and to create social, economic and political institutions which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman".

Mr. Anwar thereafter said, "In a world fraught with challenges and uncertainties, it is the unwavering commitment to these principles that will guide us towards a brighter, more just tomorrow. The legacy of the founding fathers is not merely a testament to their time, but a timeless beacon, urging us to dream, to strive, and to forge ahead with undaunted courage and unshakeable resolve".

Still relevant

Significantly, Mr. Anwar began his address by quoting Swami Vivekananda on the 'march' of ideas from this land accompanied by words which had "blessings" behind them and "peace" before them. Remarkably, he noted that Vivekananda was the chief disciple of Ramakrishna – perhaps no other foreign leader has done so. Pleading for multiculturism and inclusivity, Mr. Anwar recalled what Gandhi*ji* had said, "'Hate the sin and not the sinner' is a precept which, though easy enough to understand, is rarely practi[s]ed, and that is why the poison of hatred spreads in the world." And, he concluded his address by quoting Tagore whose words he said "echo through the corridors of time, urging us to embrace not the comforts of safety, but the unyielding courage to confront adversity head long: "Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them".

Mr. Anwar's reference to Swami Vivekananda, Gandhi*ji*, Tagore and Nehru point to the agonising difficulty of the Sangh Parivar. While it has denigrated Nehru and sought to co-opt some great personalities of the freedom movement and the Indian Renaissance, its own venerated ideologues and leaders are respected in many quarters in India but they continue to be known only in niche circles abroad.

Right-wing ideologues may assert that this is because they belonged to indigenous cultural traditions which were ignored by the colonialists and that that tendency continues. The fact is that the timeless message of spiritual unity of Vivekananda, the universalism of Tagore and Gandhi*ji*'s emphasis on non-violence also derived from indigenous Indian traditions but eschewed muscular exclusivism. And, Nehru's ideal of an inclusive, modern society animated by the scientific spirit was a beacon light for many newly decolonised countries as it should be to India today.

The broad view

India's present policies to ensure that the power of digital technologies are harnessed for popular welfare are gaining the positive attention of the Global South. These are practical measures which have great importance in the lives of the impoverished everywhere and are important for governance. They evoke foreign admiration but in the realm of political and social philosophies, the ideologues of the Parivar do not inspire as do Gandhi*ji* and Nehru and others who Mr. Anwar mentioned. And, this can hardly be attributed to the conspiracies of left liberals.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Simultaneous elections

India is diverse, plural, participative, federal, accommodative and, most importantly, united. Instead of strengthening it, we are introducing the prefix 'One Nation' that attempts to erase India's ethos in the name of democracy and national welfare (Page 1, "Simultaneous polls plan gets Union Cabinet nod", September 19). It is high time that we re-read the Constitution of India, listen to the Opposition and understand the pulse of the public to know what should guide democracy and national welfare.

R. Srivatsan,
Chennai

Simultaneous elections in a diverse and populous country such as India raise significant concerns. Logistics, security concerns, and the risk of undermining regional issues are critical challenges. Implementing such a system may lead to superficial governance, prioritising national needs over local ones, ultimately diminishing democratic representation and accountability at the grassroot-level.

Sakshi Gawhadem,
Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Coalitions and the subsequent collapse of governments in a multi-party system in India are not uncommon in various States. Under the new poll plan, there could be more political meddling. How effective will oversight by the Election Commission of India be?

P. Paramasivan,
Chennai

It is unfortunate that the ruling party has not considered the pros and cons of its plan. I am afraid that such a proposal will only create chaos. The objections by the Opposition parties seem to be based more out of their fear of being kept away from power. Though the government has talked about consultations, past actions indicate that the party in power for a third term may still try to bulldoze its way. I hope better sense prevails.

Unnikrishnan Nair B.C.,
Kuthiathode, Alappuzha, Kerala

The recommendation will definitely lead to several benefits. Imagine the time, energy, money and man days saved. The resources can be utilised for other productive projects. I am unable to understand how simultaneous polls are against the Constitution, democracy, federalism and practicality.

A.K. Rajan,
Ayyanthole, Thrissur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Should children be barred from social media?

Amanda Third

Professorial Research Fellow in Digital Social and Cultural Research in the Institute for Culture and Society and Co-Director of the Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University

Aparajita Bharti

Founding Partner of TQH, a Delhi-based public policy research firm, and co-founder of Young Leaders for Active Citizenship

PARLEY

The Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has announced a plan to set a minimum age to use social media platforms. Should children be barred from social media? Amanda Third and Aparajita Bharti discuss the question with **Mandira Moddie**. Edited excerpts:

Amanda, could you tell us about the ongoing debate in Australia?

Amanda Third: This policy decision has come out of the blue. It is not a debate that we have been having for a long time. Off the back of the pandemic and the large increases in time spent online by children, along with a recognition that some children are exposed to harm via social media, the debate has heated up.

The debate in favour of a ban has largely been driven by parent groups. The government is under pressure to demand that technology platforms step up and assume responsibility for keeping children safe online. However, there is a political dimension to this too: Australia is in the lead up to a federal election (in 2025) and Meta has declared that it will no longer pay money to news agencies in order to distribute news content. So, the government is keen to keep the Murdoch empire happy. The way to do that is to go along with this impetus for a ban.

While a ban looks seductive, it may not give parents what they are looking for, which is safer spaces for their children and for technology companies to take responsibility. If children are banned from these spaces, companies will have even less of an imperative to design platforms for them and for young people. We need to put more pressure on tech platforms to deliver better spaces for children and young people.

Aparajita, what are your views on age limits?

Aparajita Bharti: When we talk about enforcing age limits, the devil lies in the details. In India, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, says children can access any platform which collects their personal data only after getting verifiable parental consent. How do we implement this? In Australia, when the Prime Minister says there should be a social media ban until the age of 16, how would such a ban be implemented? It is unclear.

Bans are hard to enforce in a digital environment. Apart from what Amanda said, children are good at circumventing [barriers]. South Korea's Cinderella Law had banned gaming from midnight to 6:00 a.m. After the law came in, there was identity theft so that children would be able to access the gaming platforms.

Age limits seem to put the burden of compliance on parents. Is that reasonable?

AB: You are right. This is specifically amplified in India, where digital literacy is quite low, where there are many different languages, and where platforms don't always lend themselves the same way in all these languages. There is also a lot of shared device usage. We conducted a survey of 10,000 children in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and in government schools in Delhi and found out that 80% of children helped their parents navigate online platforms. So, to expect parents to guide children on safe online usage is not sensible. Similarly, if you look at the NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) data, only 40% Indians knew how to copy or move files on a computer (2021). This number may have increased, but if we use ID-based verification, for example, which has been proposed time and again as a means to verify age, it would be hard for people who are less literate to do that. Therefore, we also need to think about what responsibility platforms need to take and what kind of design changes they need to make to ensure the safety of children online.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attends question time at Parliament House in Canberra. AP

Amanda, what is the conversation at home?

AT: Parents feel overwhelmed by the task of managing their children's digital engagements and that is made difficult by the fact that we have a highly inflammatory media environment where only the extreme cases of children experiencing significant harm get reported. It is a very one-sided conversation. It does not include the positives that come out of the digital engagements of children and young people. We have some wonderful organisations here generating high-quality online safety materials. But even so, the availability and distribution of those resources pales in comparison with the panic narrative that parents are exposed to. We need to moderate the media debate and make sure that we give parents good, strong advice about the things that they can do to keep their kids safe online, but also on how to maximise the value of being online. Research shows that when a parent is able to support their child to really maximise the benefits of being online, this also works to mitigate the harms.

AB: The education system also has a huge role to play, especially in India. On the one hand, we are making our school curricula more and more digital because there is an understanding that this is a skill that is required for a person to be employable. On the other, we are always discussing screen time. So, what are we doing to our education curriculum? What is that fine balance between going tech and also emphasising physical sport, writing, etc.?

> Children have been telling us that they perceive double standards in the use of technology: parents have one set of rules for their kids and a different set for themselves. Parenting is about role modelling. One of the most powerful things that parents can do is to regulate their own use (of platforms).
> AMANDA THIRD

Second, as part of their core curriculum, children should be taught how to be resilient online. We teach our children about good touch, bad touch, and how to be safe in the physical world. But unfortunately, while there have been many scattered initiatives, the core curriculum in India does not include lessons on how to conduct yourself online, on how to know you are in danger, what is unsafe, etc.

Parents share their children's personal data online at the cost of the privacy of children. How do we tackle this?

AT: Spot on. Children have been telling us that they perceive double standards in the use of technology. That is, the parents have one set of rules for their children and a different set for themselves. Parenting is about role modelling. The kinds of habits that you demonstrate in front of your child influences them deeply. One of the most powerful things that parents can do is to regulate their own use (of platforms).

AB: In India, we have not really had a discussion around law on 'sharenting' (the practice of parents publicising a large amount of potentially sensitive content about their children on Internet platforms). But quite a few law-enforcement agencies, such as the Assam Police, have been using their social media to warn parents against 'sharenting'. Under the data protection law, every citizen has the right to correction and erasure of personal data. It will be interesting to see how children, when they grow up, will use this law to remove certain things that their parents put out when they (the children) were minors without their consent.

There are a lot of child influencers on social media, who enter into marketing contracts. What is being done to address the issue?

AB: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights came out with some guidelines for child and adolescent participation in the entertainment industry in 2023. These require producers to obtain permission from district magistrates before a child can perform in any audio visual content. It is interesting that they don't put the onus on parents. However, if you look at social media now, certain accounts get flagged because the audience feels that the child is being exploited by their parents to market products. In France, the law says if a child under the age of 16 is an influencer and earns an income, their parents cannot access that income until the child turns 16. We should also consider certain regulations around this in India.

What are the responsibilities of social media platforms and tech companies in ensuring the safety of children online?

AT: We have been too focused on protecting children from possible harms and not focused enough on thinking about the kinds of environments in which we would like our children to roam around online. We have a lot of work to do in moving companies and governments away from a compliance mode into a mode of designing optimal environments for children. One of the big upcoming dilemmas is, what are we going to decide is acceptable in terms of age assurance technologies or age verification? What is our threshold of tolerance for identity verification, particularly where that identification requires private companies to collect yet more data about us?

AB: The same technology that can be used for harm is also used to keep children safe online. For example, if the child is doing something that indicates that they are close to self-harm, the companies cannot do anything about it without tracking. So, every technology can be used both for good and bad. Therefore, banning something in the digital space is difficult.

If banning is not the right way to go, what is the way to get platforms to do better? We have models from around the world. The Age-Appropriate Design Code in the U.K., 2020, has had a real impact on platforms. They have made changes, so that children have better default settings when they join the platform and are exposed to minimum risk. A recent study found that platforms such as Meta, Google, TikTok, and Snapchat have made 128 changes related to child safety and privacy. Sadly, we don't have anything like that in India yet.

There also needs to be more transparency around these design changes. It is not enough for platforms to say we have made design changes; it is also important for platforms to report the changes they see in children's behaviour after making those changes.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The real, the reel, and the reels

Scripted entertainment often supplants free and fair reporting in film journalism in India

Shilajit Mitra

On a recent work trip, I made myself useful. I assisted a fellow entertainment journalist with the most critical aspect of this profession: making reels. I write this in jest, just about. Shooting quirky, short-format videos has become a nagging, almost unavoidable feature of our beat. Hang back at any film event and you will observe journalists queuing up – after conducting their formal interviews – for some extra minutes with the stars. This is reel time.

There are different kinds of reels, of course. But I am referring to a particular variety: spiffily dressed reporters hobnobbing with celebrities, doing a little jig, or posing inanities: "Tell us three things we will find on your phone..."

This is not a new phenomenon. In recent years, if the lines have somewhat blurred between content creation and formal reportage, in the realm of film coverage they are practically mush. Reels ensure instant virality. They are quick and catchy. As some may argue, they are the "fun stuff", the equivalent of pull quotes in a magazine. But while the point of pull quotes is to snag a reader's attention and direct it to the substance (I use this word loosely) of the piece, reels are their own autonomous things.

It is true that movie journalism, from its beginning, has swayed to its own rhythm. Its ethical and aesthetic boundaries are not as sharply drawn as they are – or ought to be – for, say, political reportage. A certain closeness with celebrities, an animated speaking style, a witty and likeable persona are all fair rules of the game. Often, the anchor on a talk show is the audience's surrogate, conveying the same wonder and awe that ordinary people feel for actors.

While all film journalists are now content creators, are all content creators film journalists? It is a tough knot to untangle. The PR machinery that controls movie promotions certainly sees it their way. Increasingly, influencers, vloggers, and independent podcasters are being prioritised over traditional news outlets. They are considered pliant and less troublesome; they are willing to forgo a difficult line of inquiry if it means extended access to a star. They also bring legions of followers. The establishment media, caught in a game of hits and likes, is left playing catch up. It is sometimes humbling to see senior (and well-regarded) journalists trying to get down with the kids, recreating 'hook steps' or posting awkwardly framed selfies.

I am not writing this to vent or to assume a moral high ground. I have often clicked pictures with actors and filmmakers and travelled on junkets. In any profession, people take the perks they can get. In a 1995 piece about *The Wild Bunch*, the late film critic, Roger Ebert, wrote about first viewing the film in The Bahamas in the late 1960s, in what he termed "the golden age of the junket". He said: "It was party time, and not the right venue for what became one of the most controversial films of its time."

In the end, film journalism takes all kinds. There are anchors and creators who make genuinely funny reels – you can see their love for trivia and pop culture inform the content they create. Furthermore, no technology or format is inherently insidious or corrupting. My only concern, therefore, is with scripted entertainment thoroughly supplanting free and fair reporting. We have seen the tempers that rise whenever film celebrities are asked incisive questions, or when their films are criticised. It is not what they have come to expect from our tribe any longer. They are used to the fun stuff.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Putting out fires everywhere

An airplane drops water on a wildfire near Freixiosa, Portugal. The country in south western Europe is fighting multiple wildfires and has mobilised more than 5,000 firefighters to contain them. At least six people have died so far and a number of residents have been forced to flee their homes. The fires have been caused by hot, dry conditions. Meanwhile, central Europe is trying to contain floods caused by heavy downpours. REUTERS

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE SEPTEMBER 19, 1974 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

Bakhia, Mastan & 7 others detained in swoop on smugglers

Bombay, Sept. 18: Nine persons including Sukur Naran Bakhia and Haji Mastan, described to be smuggling kingpins, were arrested and detained to-day under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) within hours after it was amended by a Presidential Ordinance late last night.

The Police, the Customs and the Directorate of Revenue intelligence are combing the Bombay underworld to catch more suspected smugglers in their net.

The tightlipped officials declined to divulge the number of smugglers they are hunting for, but authoritative sources indicated that the net had been spread for a score of notorious smugglers.

Five of the suspected smugglers – Nainmal Punjaji, Shah Champalal Shah, Rajaballi Hirjee Meghani, Nathalal Rupsi Shah and Kantilal Nanchand Shah – were arrested in Bombay and taken to Yeravada jail.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 20, 1924

Separation issue

Simla, Sept. 19: It is understood that an agreement has almost been reached between the Government and the Nationalist Party on the question of the separation of railway finance: "In view of the fact that the Assembly agrees to the resolution passed in February 1923 in favour of State management of Railways, these arrangements shall hold good only so long as the East Indian Railway and G.I.P. Railway and the existing State managed railways remain under State management.

From Page One

Doctors call off strike as Bengal lists reforms

In a letter addressed to the Principal Secretary of Health and Family Welfare N.S. Nigam, Mr. Pant highlighted ten directives for safety and security of healthcare professionals which include "deployment of adequate number of police/security personnel along with female police/security personnel in every healthcare facility in consultation with Home Department".

The communication also pointed out that the State government has appointed former Director General of Police Surajit Kar Purkayastha to conduct security audits of all medical colleges and hospitals.

The State government has also suggested that a centralised helpline number as well as panic call button alarm system should also be made available in every healthcare facility. The State government has also directed that immediate steps should be taken for filling up of vacant posts of doctors, nurses and technicians.

"A robust grievance redressal system should be developed to promptly address the grievances and complaints of all the stakeholders including patient and patient parties," the letter from the Chief Secretary said.

On Thursday, the Chief Minister had once again appealed to protesting doctors to return to work highlighting the flood situation and the possible outbreak of water-borne diseases. "We have done all that we could do. May good sense prevail," she said.

In a related development, the West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC) cancelled the registration of the former Principal of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Kumar Ghosh.

'Land mafia' torches at least 34 houses in Bihar

Explaining the cause of the of the fire, Nawada Superintendent of Police Abhinav Dhiman said, "There was a land dispute going on between two sides. The people who set the house on fire claimed that it was their land on which these people were settled. We have deployed the police force and magistrate and will camp in the village for next three to four days.

Police have lodged the case on the statement of one villager Vyas Muni and named 28 people in the FIR. Three country-made pistols, three missed-fire round bullets, two empty cartridges, six motorbikes have been recovered as part of the investigation.

A villager Gorelal Ravidas whose house is burnt said, "Earlier also, Nandu Paswan had threatened but last night he came along with his men carrying petrol and guns. First they fired in the air and then burnt the house using petrol. We all have to run away leaving everything inside the house."

Police on Thursday lodged the FIR and imposed several sections under Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. Case has also been registered under Arms Act and several sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Widespread criticism

Reacting to the incident, Leader of Opposition in Bihar Legislative Assembly and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav posted a message on X, blaming the Chief Minister.

"There is Maha Jungleraj and Demon Raj. More than 100 houses of Dalits were set on fire in Nawada. There is fire all over Bihar under the rule of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is least bothered. Atrocities on Dalits will not be tolerated," Mr. Yadav wrote in the post on Thursday.

Scheduled Caste and Tribe Welfare Department Minister Janak Ram said that the accused will be punished.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also demanded action by writing a post on X.

"The Bihar Government and the State Police must take immediate and strict action against all the culprits of this shameful crime and provide complete justice to the victim families by rehabilitating them," Mr. Gandhi wrote in the post.

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manhi made a serious allegation that most of the people arrested are from Yadav caste and supporters of the RJD.

Both Tejashwi Yadav and Lalu Prasad slammed Mr. Manjhi for his statement. Mr. Yadav called him and his son the students of the RSS school.

Baseless case, says India after U.S. court summons

The U.S. had alleged that an Indian government agent orchestrated a plot from India to kill an American citizen on U.S. soil.

"I would only invite your attention to the person behind this particular case whose antecedents are well known," he said, referring to Mr. Pannun, the man the FBI has said was being targeted. "I would also underline the fact that the organisation that this person represents, is an unlawful organisation, has been declared as such under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and it has been done so on account of its involvement in anti-national and subversive activities aimed at disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India," he said, during a briefing on Wednesday.

The summons comes on the eve of PM Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S for the Quad Summit and the United Nations in New York.

Trump not on travel plan, clarifies MEA after he claims meet with PM

PM to land in the U.S. on Saturday for a three-day trip; India's role as a peacemaker is still a 'work in progress', says Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri; Quad meet to take stock of Indo-Pacific initiatives; India to remain out of the trade pillar of the IPEF

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

No meeting has been fixed with former U.S. President Donald Trump so far, the government said on Thursday, a day after Mr. Trump told a campaign rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "coming to meet" him next week.

Briefing the media on Mr. Modi's upcoming visit to the United States from September 21 to 23, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Mr. Modi would hold separate meetings with U.S. President Joseph Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Wilmington, where he will arrive on Saturday for the Quad summit, and that a number of bilateral meetings had been planned during his visit to New York on Sunday and Monday.

"I think we first need to work our way through to fixing a meeting and then look at the issues," Mr. Misri said, when asked about Mr. Trump's announcement on the meeting, in which the former American President had said that India was a "big abuser" of trade policies, but that Mr. Modi was a "fantastic, fantastic man". Sources said the logistics for a meeting between the two leaders were difficult given the PM's limited time and Mr. Trump's busy campaign schedule. It would seem politically partisan for the PM to meet the Republican candidate, unless he also meets the Democratic candidate, the U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

Close ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with former U.S. President Donald Trump as they give joint statements in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington in 2017. REUTERS

"There are a number of meetings we are trying to schedule, keeping the time available in mind. So I cannot confirm any specific meeting at present," Mr. Misri said.

Asked if Mr. Modi would present a proposal for peace-making on the Russia-Ukraine conflict after his visits to Moscow and Kyiv, Mr. Misri said that conversations on "India's role as a peacemaker in a position to propose a peace formula, either with bilateral partners or on a multilateral platform," were still a "work-in progress".

"We are involved in a set of several conversations with several important partners and leaders at this point in time," Mr. Misri said, deflecting a question on whether Mr. Modi would meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy next week in New York. He also declined to comment on whether meetings with Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu were being scheduled.

The PM will fly directly from Delhi on Saturday morning to reach Wilmington, Delaware in time for his bilateral meetings and the Quad summit. The Foreign Secretary said that the Quad meet would take stock of Indo-Pacific initiatives thus far, and would also see India's documents of ratification being handed over for the "over-arching" Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Agreement. However, India will remain out of the trade pillar of the IPEF, given concerns over its insistence on labour and human rights standards.

"Work and discussion on the trade pillar continue at this point," Mr. Misri said, indicating India has yet to accede to the U.S.-led grouping's joint plans on trade, while the accension to the three pillars on supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy are now complete. Mr. Misri did not respond to the U.S. White House's contention that China's "aggressive PRC military action, unfair trade practices, tensions over the Taiwan Strait" would be "high on the agenda" for the Quad summit.

In New York, he will address a diaspora event, and address the UN Summit of the Future on Tuesday afternoon, before leaving the U.S.

Centre to probe death of Ernst & Young staffer

Snehal Mutha
A.M. Jigeesh
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

After allegations about exploitative work conditions took X by storm after the death of a young Pune-based Ernst & Young (EY) employee, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has promised a thorough investigation.

Anna Sebastian Perayil, 26, allegedly died from 'backbreaking workload' and 'work stress', her mother has said. Anna worked at S.R. Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, in Pune for four months, before her death on July 20.

EY said it was not aware of the specifics of the particular case.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Anna Sebastian Perayil. A thorough investigation into the allegations of an unsafe and exploitative work environment is underway. We are committed to ensuring justice & Labour Ministry has officially taken up the complaint," Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje said on Thursday on social media platform X.

After the mother's letter to EY India chairperson Rajiv Memani went viral, the company said it had taken the family's correspondence 'with the utmost seriousness and humility'.

India abstains from voting on UNGA resolution against Israel's 'occupation'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The effort of the United Nations should be to "build bridges" between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, India said, explaining a decision to abstain from a resolution at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that called on Israel to vacate Palestinian territories on the basis of an opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). India was among 43 nations that abstained from the resolution, which was adopted by the UN body, as more than two-thirds of the countries present, a massive 124 of 181, voted in favour of it. Sources said the resolution's call for sanctions and stopping arms exports to Israel may have also spurred India's decision to abstain.

"Our joint efforts should be directed towards bringing the two sides closer,

P. Harish

not drive them further apart. We should strive towards building bridges, not furthering the divides," India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations P. Harish said, in the Explanation of Vote (EoV) after the abstention.

In the explanation, Mr. Harish reiterated India's position on a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine peace, and the importance of the UN charter. He also repeated India's formulation of the violence, which blames neither Hamas for the terrorist attacks in 2023 that killed over 1,200, and the taking of about 250 hostages, nor names Israel for the reprisal bombardment of Gaza and the West Bank that has left more than 35,000 dead, including nearly 15,000 children, according UN data.

"We unequivocally condemn the terror attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023; we condemn the loss of civilian lives in the conflict; we call for an immediate ceasefire and immediate and unconditional release of all hostages; and we stand for unrestricted and sustained humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip," the EoV said, adding that India remains an advocate of "dialogue and diplomacy".

The abstention by India was a marked departure from its previous record of voting in favour of resolutions that call upon Israel to withdraw troops from occupied Palestinian territories, including Gaza. Sources said India abstained as it had some differences over the wording of the resolution that imposes a one-year deadline on Israel to withdraw forces from the occupied territories, which some of the other abstaining countries called "unrealistic".

Indian companies have joint ventures with Israeli defence companies and manufacture, under licence, some parts which go back to parent companies in Israel, which can be sold to any one by them, officials said, while asserting that India's exports to Israel are very low.

The non-binding resolution followed two waves of bombings across Lebanon that killed about 30 people and wounded 3,000 as pagers and personal devices packed with explosives were detonated, which the Lebanese government has blamed Israel for.

'India took a policy stand not to supply arms, shells to Israel'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the initial days of the Gaza offensive, Israel required artillery shells but India took a "policy decision" not to supply them, according to defence sources, who also stated that India is "firmly neutral" between Russia and Ukraine and has taken a stand to "not supply kinetic equipment" to either of them.

"In the initial days of their Gaza offensive, they needed artillery shells, 155mm and 105mm; but we took a policy decision not to supply them. Israel itself is unable to honour its commitments. What they are supposed to supply, they are using it for themselves," a defence source with knowledge of the matter said on condition of anonymity, while stressing that "there is very little that really goes from India."

This also highlights India's vulnerabilities due to its extreme dependence on defence imports. Deliveries of systems, spares, supplies and ammunition have suffered delays from Russia as well.

"It is India which is dependent on Israel for defence supplies, deliveries of some have been impacted due to their own requirements following the current situation," the source stressed.

"At the time of the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, in February 2022, there were not much supplies going from India, as at that time our defence industry wasn't primed much, especially for ammunition," the source stated.

"After the war began, there have been several inquiries from countries around them and aligned either with Russia or Ukraine who were looking to re-route stuff but the Defence Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been clear that we will not get embroiled in the war," the source stressed. "

The Government of India has been very careful in ensuring that none of its equipment reaches any country that may re-export them, the first source reiterated.

MEA slams 'arms to Kyiv' report

NEW DELHI
India on Thursday described as "inaccurate" a media report that said artillery shells sold by Indian arms manufacturers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened to stop it. "We have seen the *Reuters* report. It is speculative and misleading," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. PTI

India should increase court system capacity, reduce pending trials: FATF

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

India should aim to reduce the number of pending trials in money laundering cases by making major changes to increase the capacity of the court system, and potentially the capability of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), as per the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual assessment report of India.

Major changes to address delays relating to the prosecution of terror financing cases have also been suggested.

"Although the conviction rate stands at almost 97%, there are a number of factors that may explain the low number of prosecutions over the evaluation period. One important reason relates to a constitutional challenge through 121 petitions to PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) provisions since 2018, which put on hold a number of trials and was only disposed of by the Supreme Court (*Vijay Madanlal Chowdhary vs. Union of India*) in July 2022," it said.

During the check period, 4,163 investigations were initiated and 132 dropped later, prosecution complaints filed in 864 cases, while 28 convictions were secured by the ED. The agency faced only one acquittal.

Report says India faces terror financing threats, including those related to IS and al Qaeda

The FATF observed that the challenges were made to several powers of the ED under the PMLA that would have impacted their investigations and prosecutions over the period.

"The issues under challenge were ultimately decided in favour of ED and the provisions of PMLA were upheld. Although there are still legal challenges relating to the PMLA which are awaiting decision in the Supreme Court, this has not impacted PMLA prosecutions since the 2022 decision," said the report.

Saturation of system

It said the limited number of specialised prosecutors in ED and special court judges had also contributed to a saturation of the judicial system "i.e., inability to prosecute."

However, the FATF said the country had achieved a high level of technical compliance across the FATF recommendations.

The FATF report observed that India faces serious terrorism and terror financing threats, including related to Islamic State or al Qaeda.

APPEAL

Ms. Yoshinithya daughter of Mr. R. Prasanth 8 years admitted in Christian Medical College is diagnosed to have S/P VSD Closure in 2016. Now double chambered Right Ventricle. Proximal RVOTO, moderate Tricupid Regurgitation, Sinus Rhthym and normal LV Function. She has been advised to undergo Redosternotomy+RVOT Resection at the earliest. The cost of operation would be about **Rs. 3,70,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Yoshinithya. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Harappan civilisation: enigma remains even after 100 years of exploration

T.S. Subramanian

Exactly 100 years ago, on September 20, 1924, *The Illustrated London News* published an article containing explosive news which has reverberated down the decades and continues to cast a long shadow in South Asia even a century later. Headlined "First Light on a Long-forgotten Civilisation: New Discoveries of an Unknown Prehistoric Past", the article authored by John Marshall, then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), announced the discovery of what he called the "civilisation of the Indus Valley".

A century later, this Bronze Age civilisation is called the Harappan civilisation, named after Harappa, now in Pakistan, which was the first site to be discovered in the area. For the past 100 years, the Harappan civilisation has mesmerised and baffled town planners, epigraphists, metallurgists, hydrologists, specialists in ceramics, mathematicians, astronomers, and others. Its enigmas have intrigued them.

At the apogee of its prosperity, it was a "technological powerhouse" that excelled in town planning, harvesting water, building reservoirs, stadia, warehouses, underground sullage systems, massive fortification walls and building seafaring boats, fabricating bronze and copper artefacts, and in making beads, exquisite painted pottery, and terracotta products. Its craftsman made seals of steatite and carved them with realistic human and animal motifs and a script within a cramped space of two cm by 1.5 cm.

Marks of a civilisation: Bathing platforms, a well, drains, and the remains of a curved drainage wall at Harappa. N. RAM

Uncanny similarity

Two ASI archaeologists were instrumental in the discovery, and were credited by Marshall in his article. Daya Ram Sahni first excavated Harappa in 1921-22, finding seals, painted pottery, and beads. Known as an "industrious, accurate and modest" man, Sahni later became the ASI's first Indian Director-General. The other key player was Rakhal Das Banerji. In 1922, he started excavating Mohenjo-daro, also located in modern-day Pakistan, and found seals, pottery, copper products, and crucibles at that site.

In June 1924, Marshall summoned Sahni and Banerji to meet him in his office in Shimla with their finds. He was struck by the uncanny similarity in the objects found at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, though the two sites were 640 km apart. He interpreted the similarities and announced the discovery of the "civilisation of the Indus Valley" in the London newspaper.

The Harappan civilisation can be divided into an early phase (3200 BC to 2600 BC), the mature period (2600 BC to 1900 BC), and the late phase (1900 BC to 1500 BC), when it decayed and collapsed. Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and Ganweriwala, all now in Pakistan, and Rakhigarhi and Dholavira, both in India, are the five of the biggest Harappan sites out of nearly 2,000 in the civilisational area, which is spread over 1.5 million sq.km in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. There are 1,500 sites in northwestern India, including in Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The village of Daimabad on the banks of the Godavari river in Maharashtra is the southernmost outpost of the Harappan civilisation. There are about 500 sites in Pakistan, and a few in Afghanistan. The civilisation burgeoned on the banks of the Indus and Saraswati rivers, the latter of which is believed to have dried up around 1900 BC.

According to Indus civilisation scholar Asko Parpola, "its most characteristic features" were "the fully developed Indus script; finely carved stamp seals with writing and/or an animal or some other iconographic motif...; standardised measures, including cubic weights made of chert carefully cut and polished, employing a combination of binary and decimal systems...; the large-scale use of burnt brick, standardised in size, with the ratio 1:2:4, the most effective for bonding; exquisite lapidary art, featuring highly developed micro-drilling of very long beads made of hard carnelian, decorated with chemically stained motifs." (From Parpola's *The Roots of Hinduism, The Early Aryans and the Indus Civilization*, 2015, Oxford University Press).

Filling the gap

Vasant Shinde, who has excavated several Harappan sites in India, noted that the civilisation's discovery was significant on two counts. First, most historians were of the opinion, before it was discovered, that settled life in this part of the world first occurred around the sixth century BCE, leaving a gap in South Asian history. Historian Vincent Smith had said India jumped from the Stone Age to the [Buddhist] stupas. "The discovery of the Harappan civilisation filled the so-called gap and pushed back in one stroke the antiquity of the settled life in this part of the world by more than 3,000 years," Dr. Shinde said.

Second, the discovery added one more ancient civilisation in Asia, besides the Egyptian and the Mesopotamian, and unravelled the Harappan civilisation's maritime contacts with West Asia from 3000 BC.

Iravatham Mahadevan, who battled for 50 years to decipher the Indus script, had asserted that the civilisation was both pre-Aryan and non-Aryan. Mehrgarh, in Balochistan, is where it all began around 7000 BC. "The roots of the Harappan civilisation lie in Mehrgarh, around eight millennium BC," asserted R.S. Bisht, who excavated Dholavira in Gujarat from 1989-90 to 2004-05.

The book *The Wonder that was Harappan Civilisation*, brought out by *The Hindu*, has reproduced Marshall's story, first published in *The Illustrated London News*. On January 4, 1928, *The Hindu* had used a full page to publish a summary of his statement on the subject. Read the original report by John Marshall at *bit.ly/harappastory*

(This article is based partly on extracts from *The Wonder that was Harappan Civilisation*, curated by Mr. Subramanian.)

Pasmanda Muslim group backs Waqf Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz (AIPMM) has expressed support for the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, calling it an "important step" to eliminate corruption in the management of Waqf properties. The representatives from the organisation had deposed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted to deliberate on the legislation.

The AIPMM is different from the Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz (PMM) founded by former Rajya Sabha member Ali Anwar Ansari back in 1998. The PMM was not part of the presentation made before the Joint Committee. Mr. Ansari said that not inviting the first body fighting for Pasmanda Muslims to the panel deliberations showed "the motives of the government".

"We oppose the proposed amendments in the Bill as the government wants to grab the community's land. We will definitely meet the committee when invited," he said.

Though the Mahaz expressed a few objections, the omission of "Waqf by Users" in the Bill is significant. "At present, there is no restriction on the inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf committees. Therefore there is no justification for bringing this provision in the Bill," the Mahaz representative argued with the panel.

At the same time, the Mahaz argued in favour of participation of Pasmanda Muslims on the board. "Representation of women and Pasmanda (OBC) Muslim community should be ensured in the Waqf Board so that their problems and concerns get a proper representation," the organisation said in its presentation. Going a step further, the Mahaz argued for "ensuring" 50% reservation for Pasmandas in Waqf boards.

The organisation also advocated for a fresh survey of the Waqf properties.

J&K people have written a new chapter of history: PM

Addressing an election rally in Srinagar, Modi says promise made on the floor of Parliament to grant Statehood will be kept; he blames NC, PDP and Congress for three decades of instability

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Praising voters for the huge turnout in the first phase of the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked the Gandhis, the Abdullahs and the Muftis for the three decades of instability in Kashmir and reiterated his promise to restore Statehood.

"J&K is witnessing a festival of democracy. The first phase of voting was held peacefully and not under the shade of terrorism. Voters, including the young and old and women, voted freely and in huge numbers. Kishtwar saw 80%, Doda and Ramban 70% and Kulgam 62% voting. Compared to the previous turnout, new records have been set. People have written a new chapter of history. It shows the aspirations of people are touching new heights in J&K. The world is witnessing how the people of J&K are strengthening the Indian democracy of the country. I congratulate people for that," the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated at a public meeting in Srinagar on Thursday. IMRAN NISSAR

Addressing an election rally in Srinagar to campaign for the candidates contesting in the Kashmir Valley, Mr. Modi reiterated that the promise made on the floor of Parliament on J&K's Statehood will be kept.

"It's the BJP that will fulfil this commitment of restoring Statehood. The BJP is for peaceful and prosperous Kashmir. People should come out and vote in record numbers and vote for the BJP on September 25," he said.

Migration of Pandits

Mr. Modi accused the regional parties, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, for migration of Pandits from Kashmir.

"Kashmiri Pandits played a key role in contributing to *Kashmiriyat* and the culture of Kashmir. They were left homeless because of these three families. They provided shields to those who targeted the minorities," the Prime Minister said.

Targeting the Gandhis, the Abdullahs and the Muftis, Mr. Modi said, "Since I referred to the three families, they are rattled from Srinagar to Delhi. All they want is to occupy the seat and loot people of J&K. Youth are breaking the shackles and challenging these three families. There were times when students failed to qualify school exams and could not go out for studies. The Congress, NC, PDP failed them."

"These three families stamped the idea of '*Kashmiriyat* and *Jamooriyat*' in J&K. Recall the 1980s, they looked at J&K politics as their fiefdom and property. That is why Panchayat, District Development Council and Block Development Council elections were not held. This resulted in the erosion of faith in democracy. But now democracy is being celebrated, the faith has been restored that vote will bring a change," he added.

BJP manifesto offers ₹2,100 monthly aid for women, 2 lakh govt. jobs in Haryana

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

A day after the Congress released its manifesto for the Haryana Assembly election, the BJP came out with its '*Sankalp Patra*' offering monthly assistance of ₹2,100 for women, which is ₹100 more than what its rival has promised. The BJP, seeking its third consecutive term in the State, has promised two lakh government jobs, 10 industrial towns, the guarantee of government jobs for Agniveers, and full scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class students at government medical and engineering colleges.

Releasing the 72-page document, titled "Non-Stop Haryana Ka Sankalp Patra", on Thursday, BJP president J.P. Nadda said a BJP government would continue to procure 24 crops at the minimum support price, as already announced by the Chief Minister, and provide cooking gas cylinders to BPL families for ₹500 each.

More promises: BJP National President J.P. Nadda with Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini releases party's manifesto, in Haryana. PTI

The party promised to create job opportunities for five lakh youth and pay monthly stipend under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme. On returning to power, the BJP government would give incentives to industrialists, and provide jobs to 50,000 local youth in each of the 10 industrial towns promised in the manifesto, Mr. Nadda said.

The promises include separate welfare Boards for Backward Class communities, a metro network connecting Gurugram and Faridabad, making Haryana a global education centre, and a safari park in the Aravallis to promote tourism. Besides, the manifesto promises five lakh houses in urban and rural areas, and free dialysis and diagnostic facilities at government hospitals.

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the BJP had "exposed its own failures" with the release of its manifesto. He said the party was giving new slogans in 2024 to "mislead" the electorate.

SC informs Centre about Jharkhand's contempt plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday informed Attorney-General R. Venkataramani about a contempt petition filed by the Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand against the delay by the Union government to act on a Supreme Court Collegium recommendation in July to appoint a Chief Justice to the State's High Court.

Chief Justice Chandrachud told the top law officer about the contempt petition when Mr. Venkataramani sought a week's adjournment in a pending public interest petition for time-bound judicial appointments.

The petition is coming up for hearing on Friday.

Mr. Venkataramani said he was unaware of the contempt petition filed by Jharkhand. The CJI said the public interest plea was already onboard and primed for hearing on Friday.

The Collegium had recommended the transfer of Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao, Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court on July 11.

The Collegium had proposed to the government to clear the transfer by July 19, the date of retirement of the then-incumbent Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi. However, Justice Rao's transfer has not been cleared yet. The Jharkhand High Court has been functioning with an Acting Chief Justice, Sujit Narayan Prasad.

Incidentally, Justice Sarangi had a short tenure of only 15 days as Jharkhand Chief Justice owing to the government's six-month delay in clearing the Collegium recommendation.

In its plea, Jharkhand argued that a Chief Justice of a State High Court is the head of the judiciary of the State. It said a regular Chief Justice is essential for effective judicial and administrative work of the courts.

Cong. has history of abusing Modi and OBCs, says Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A war of words between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress escalated on Thursday after BJP president J.P. Nadda, in his response to a letter from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to the Prime Minister, accused the Congress of having a "history of using abusive language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Other Backward Classes".

Mr. Kharge had written to Mr. Modi a few days ago, with reference to certain remarks made against him by Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu. He had also written that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance

J. P. Nadda

was using "extremely objectionable" statements against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

In his letter, Mr. Nadda has cited the BJP's own litany of complaints against Mr. Gandhi and other Congress members, for their choice of words against the Prime Minister.

Mr. Nadda said that Mr. Gandhi "has a history of calling the entire Other Backward Classes, including Prime Minister Modi a 'thief', and using extremely indecent words against him".

"Under what compulsion are you trying to justify Rahul Gandhi," Mr. Nadda asked Mr. Kharge.

Mr. Nadda said Mr. Kharge's letter was driven by the latter's political compulsion to market a "failed product" repeatedly rejected by the people.

Naming Congress leaders, including Sam Pitroda, Shashi Tharoor, Digvijay Singh, P. Chidambaram, K. Suresh, and Imran Masood, Mr. Nadda said they had done "everything to defame the country".

Nadda's letter both juvenile and shallow, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hitting back at BJP president J. P. Nadda for his letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress on Thursday said the world is watching how the ruling party is "threatening to kill the Leader of the Opposition of India".

In the ongoing letter war between the Congress and BJP leaders, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Nadda's letter is "both juvenile and shallow, and a shameful attempt to distract from the serious threats to Shri Rahul Gandhi's life".

INBRIEF

Former Mumbai police chief, held in NSE case, joins Cong.

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey, who was arrested in 2022 in connection with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location scam, formally joined the Congress on Thursday. His move comes ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election. He joined the party in the presence of its Mumbai unit chief and Lok Sabha MP Varsha Gaikwad. "I'm not joining a party but a family. I wanted to join the Congress way back in 2004 but didn't get the chance," Mr. Pandey said, adding that he was a believer in secularism, and the Congress was the only party that genuinely upheld secular values.

Couple held for threatening actor Salman Khan's father

Months after actor Salman Khan's residence was allegedly attacked by Lawrence Bishnoi's gang, his father Salim Khan was threatened by a woman at Mumbai's Bandstand area during his morning walk on Wednesday. Two accused have been arrested, police said on Thursday. The arrested are a couple, and they had threatened screenwriter Salim Khan as part of a prank. Police detained the woman on Thursday after she was called to Bandra police station and the man on Wednesday night from Kidwai Nagar, Wadala. Mr. Khan was sitting on a bench when the woman threatened him, saying, "Lawrence Bishnoi ko bulau kya?" (Should I call Lawrence Bishnoi), as per the police.

Burning of Dalits' houses proof of jungle raj: Congress

Rahul Gandhi calls it 'a horrifying picture of injustice against Bahujans in Bihar'; Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge slams the 'utter indifference and criminal neglect' of Dalits by BJP, its allies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Slamming the National Democratic Alliance government in Bihar over the burning of 34 houses of Dalits at Nawada in the State over a land dispute on Wednesday night, the Congress on Thursday said it was "proof of the jungle raj".

The Opposition party said the incident exposed "the horrifying picture of injustice against the Bahujans".

"Burning down the entire Mahadalit colony in Nawada and destroying the houses of more than 80 families expose the horrifying picture of injustice against the Bahujans in Bihar," Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X.

He said the cries of these Dalit families who had lost their homes and property and the terror created among the deprived society by the sound of bullets had not been able to wake up the sleeping government of Bihar.

"Such anarchist elements find refuge under the leadership of the BJP and its NDA allies – they scare and suppress the Bahujans of India so that they are not able to demand their social and constitutional rights. And, the Prime Minister's silence is a stamp of approval on this big conspiracy," he said.

Shock attack: The remains of multiple houses set on fire in Nawada district of Bihar on Thursday. PTI

He said the Bihar government and the State police should take immediate, strict action against all culprits of the shameful crime and provide complete justice to the affected families by rehabilitating them.

Stating that the terror of goons on Mahadalit Tola in Bihar's Nawada is another proof of "jungle raj" under the NDA's double-engine government, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said, "It is highly condemnable that about 100 Dalit houses were set on fire, there was firing, and belongings of poor families were snatched in the darkness of the night."

Mr. Kharge alleged that the "utter indifference and criminal neglect" of the BJP and its allies towards Dalits and other deprived classes and encouragement of anti-social elements had peaked now. "Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi is silent as usual, Nitish (Kumar) ji remains untroubled in the greed for power and NDA's allies have become silent," he added in a post on X.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the incident of "burning down of more than 80 houses of Mahadalits" was horrific and condemnable.

Responding to police claims that the Nawada incident was the result of a land dispute, Congress Bihar in-charge Mohan Prakash asked why the administration failed to have security arrangements in place if it was aware of previous animosity between different groups.

Woman recounts abuse at Odisha police station

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

A woman, fiancee of an Army officer, on Thursday recounted the harrowing ordeal she endured at a Bhubaneswar police station, where the two went to lodge a complaint against a group of people who waylaid them and tried to pick up a fight at night on September 15.

At the Bharatpur police station, they were subjected to illegal detention and custodial torture.

While speaking to *The Hindu*, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said, "My government is monitoring the investigation closely to ensure impartiality. Police officers involved were promptly suspended as soon as the Crime Branch began its inquiry. There will be no leniency for anyone involved."

After being discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, the woman said: "I was wrongfully thrown into jail. Around 1 a.m. on September 15, when I was going home after shutting down my restaurant, some people in their cars waylaid us and tried to pick up a fight. We escaped from them and reached the Bharatpur police station to lodge a complaint." She said the police personnel did not heed her pleas to file a complaint and to check on the miscreants. "Instead they resorted to verbal abuse," she said.

"When I told them that I am a lawyer and it was the duty of police to receive complaint at the odd hours, they took offence to it. After some time, a patrol vehicle reached the police station. Some female officers and rest male officers got down from the vehicle. They had given opportunity to my fiance to write a complaint," the woman said. Then they suddenly took him into custody and two female officers started assaulting her. After she bit a woman constable who tried to strangulate her, she said, "All police personnel ganged up and tied my hands from behind using my jacket. My legs were tied by the scarf of a lady constable. They threw me into a room."

She said the inspector in-charge of the station also molested her and flashed at her. "The Crime Branch has launched a separate investigation into the road rage incident," said Y.B. Khurania, Director General of Police.

Committee continues to work on MSP proposals, says Union Agriculture Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Without making any commitment on the demand of farmers' groups for a legalised minimum support price (MSP), Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said here on Thursday that the Narendra Modi government had procured much higher quantities of foodgrains and pulses than any government in the past.

Talking to reporters on the works carried out by his Ministry in the first 100 days of the third Narendra Modi government, Mr. Chouhan said the policies of the Centre would ensure remunerative prices for the produce of farmers.

Mr. Chouhan said the committee set up by the Centre to look into the issue of legalised MSP has had 23 meetings so far. "The final report of the committee is awaited. The committee is working on the issue," he said, adding that the report of the panel, headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal, would be made public soon.

The Centre has enhanced the procurement of pulses and oilseeds, the Minister said.

The panel was constituted in 2022 after protests by farmers against three (since repealed) farm laws.

The Minister said the Centre had converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) scheme under the PM AASHA scheme to serve farmers and consumers more efficiently.

"The government has renewed and enhanced the existing guarantee to ₹45,000 crore for procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra at MSP from farmers," he said, adding that the procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra at MSP under PSS will be on 25% of national production from the 2024-25 seasons onward, which would enable States to procure more of these crops at MSP from farmers.

New animation, VFX centre to create 5 lakh jobs, says I&B Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) to be set up by the Centre will have the potential to create about five lakh jobs.

"Films like *RRR*, *Baahubali*, *The Lion King* and *Avatar* have demonstrated the immense potential of animation and immersive technology! India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) sector is poised for explosive growth, with vast opportunities for employment and innovation," the Minister said in a post on X.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

"What does AVGC and immersive tech cover? Immersive technologies create lifelike, interactive experiences. This includes Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality (MR) and 3D modelling & animation. Whether you're a 3D animator, VR/AR creator, game developer or comic artist - this is your playground!" he said.

Mr. Vaishnaw said the centre would be the gateway for aspirants to master immersive tech.

White Revolution 2.0 to empower women, fight malnutrition: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition.

Mr. Shah said that according to the western concept, a woman is considered unemployed even though she does all the work at home, but he disagreed with it. He said White Revolution 2.0 will help the inclusion of women engaged in procurement of milk in formal employment as the money will be deposited in their bank accounts. The scheme aims at increasing procurement led by cooperatives from the present 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Panchayati Raj, Rajiv Ranjan Singh was also present at the launch.

Amit Shah

Mr. Shah said that in the past 70 years, necessary changes in cooperatives were not made due to which the bodies became very successful in some States and were left to the mercy of State governments in others. He said the government has prepared a joint proposal of two lakh primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS), dairy and fishery cooperatives, and sent it across the country, and all the States have accepted it. He said that once these PACS are registered, there will not be a single panchayat without a PACS, dairy or fisheries cooperative society.

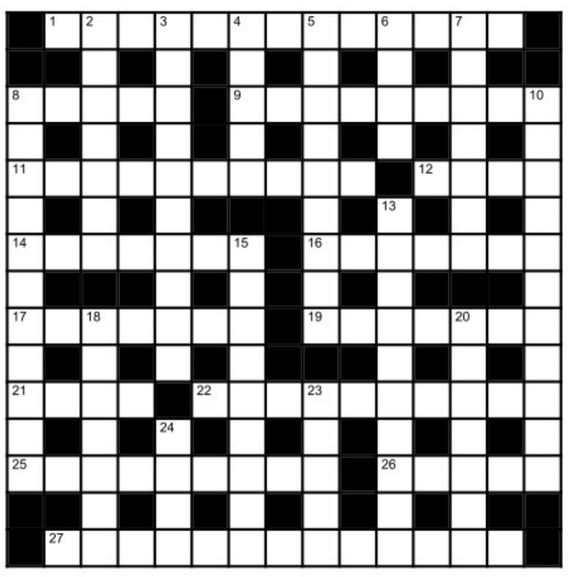
The Minister said once this happens, co-operatives will be able to reach the whole country, which will lead to the creation of cooperative institutions at tehsil and district levels, and State institutions will gain strength and momentum.

TH CROSSWORD + 14285

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Breakfast dish and fancy wine with gal in bar (7,6)
8 Spiteful person with gun killing European (5)
9 Understood criminal regretted stealing stone (9)
11 Offend revolutionary master after extremely brief preview of art exhibition (10)
12 Raspberry in ranch is succulent (4)
14 Light source in a bracket outside entrance to room (3,4)
16 Make right move without stopping (2,3,2)
17 Woman tackles wild dog starting to eviscerate small Indian animal (3,4)
19 Star beginning to smoke cannabis in warm summery place (7)
21 Birds return, perch over top of tree (4)
22 Women in thongs entertaining a former American president (10)
25 Bland, stale stew eaten by girl (9)
26 Scrap after unionist enters (5)
27 Surprised by a math test! I secure first class nevertheless (2,4,2,2,3)

Down

2 One overwhelmed by recent disorder of the intestines (7)
3 Scatter as regiment shoots (10)
4 Small sac with U-shaped spore-bearing cell (5)
5 One seen at bar with stylish English girls (9)
6 Fellow continues to have primarily tonic convulsions (4)
7 Text includes indication about amino acid (7)
8 Try diced dish containing meat, almost cooked to a T (4,1,4,2)
10 Stop rogue outside inn to seize cocaine (11)
13 Destitute, like a defeated boxer? (4-3-3)
15 Indestructible Superman! Entertaining films (9)
18 Visit degenerate abandoning daughter (2,2,3)
20 Auntie playing under pressure makes a bloomer (7)
23 Catches snakes behind hotel (5)
24 Lewd person caught in Indian city (4)

SUDOKU

					2		4	8
1						5		2
		6	4		1		7	
	9		7			3		1
	8						5	
2		1			3		8	
	7		2		8	6		
6		8						5
3	4		6					

No.SS6286 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

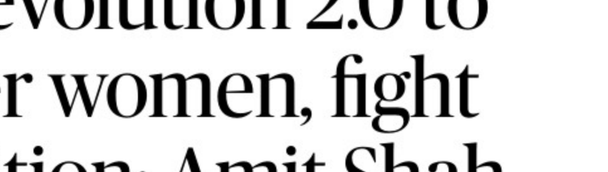
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P	U	T	O	N	E	S	F	E	E	T	U	P	
		S		N		V		O		C		N		
W	R	E	S	T		E	A	R	T	H	S	T	A	R
A		L		H		R		G		T		R		O
R	E	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N		P	U	N	T
T		S		F				T		L		T		T
S	U	S	P	E	N	D		T	R	O	C	H	E	E
A				N		E		E		N				N
N	O	T	I	C	E	D		N	I	G	E	L	L	A
D		I		E		I				W		E		P
A	U	N	T		S	C	R	E	W	I	N	G	U	P
L		A		A		A		N		N		R		L
L	A	M	I	N	A	T	E	D		D	H	O	L	E
		O		O		E		O		E		O		
	T	U	R	N	E	D	O	N	A	D	I	M	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	2	7	8	6	1	5	9
5	7	6	1	4	9	2	8	3
8	9	1	2	3	5	6	4	7
4	8	9	3	1	2	7	6	5
1	3	7	6	5	8	4	9	2
6	2	5	4	9	7	3	1	8
9	1	4	5	2	3	8	7	6
7	5	3	8	6	4	9	2	1
2	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	4



FAITH

Ways of computing time

Scriptures contain valuable information and guidance essential for our daily lives. In a discourse, Uzhapakkam Sri Devanathachariar Swamy narrated the traditional way of computing time, quoting from Sri Vishnu Purana.

The duration taken for winking once is called "*Nimesha*". Fifteen *nimeshas* are called one "*Kashta*". Thirty *kashtas* constitute one "*Kala*." Thirty *kalas* are known as one "*Nazhigai*" – equivalent to 24 minutes. (Some texts call it a *Muhurtha*). One day consists of 60 *Nazhigais*, equally halved for daytime and night. One *Nazhigai* just before dawn is known as "*Sandhya Kalam*". A fortnight is called "*Paksha*". A month consists of two *pakshas* – (Krishna and Sukla). Three *ruthus* of two months each are called "*Ayanam*" and two *ayanams* form a year – (Utharayanam and Dakshinayanam).

People follow four types of almanacs. The time unit taking the rotation of the Moon as the base is called "*Chaandramaanam*." From one Amavasya to the next, it is called one month. The time unit taking the rotation of the Sun as the base is called "*Souramanam*". In this, a month is calculated by the Sun's movement in the 12 zodiac signs (*Raasi*.) *Savana* is the third, in which precisely 30 days are taken as a month, and the last one is called *Nakshatra Masa*, in which 27 days constitute a month.

INBRIEF

'India's logistics cost will come down to single-digit in 5 years'

India's logistics cost will reduce to single-digit levels in five years, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. Addressing the Deloitte Government Summit in Delhi, Mr. Gadkari said the ministry is constructing several highways and expressways that will help reduce India's logistics cost. "I am confident within five years, our logistics cost will be in single-digit," he said. But estimates of economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research show logistics cost ranged between 7.8% and 8.9% of GDP in 2021-22. PTI

PDG to invest $1 bn in data centre capacity expansion

Data centre provider Princeton Digital Group (PDG) has announced $1 billion investment to expand its India capacity to 230 MW. This is part of PDG's new $5 billion investment in AI-ready data centres across Asia. "As one of the fastest growing data centre operators, our $1 billion investment is a testament to our commitment to the country's AI and cloud ecosystems," said Rangu Salgame, CEO, PDG. "By adding three new buildings in Mumbai and by entering Chennai, we are significantly enhancing our hyper-scale AI-ready infrastructure footprint," he added.

Apparel exports grew 12% in August to more than $1.2 bn

Apparel exports registered 11.9% growth in August to $1.27 billion compared with $1.13 million last August. Ready-made garment exports have been growing since May. Between April and August, exports were 7.1% higher this year as against April-August, 2023. In rupee terms, exports were 13.4% higher last month compared with last August and 8.7% more in April-August FY25 compared with the corresponding period in FY24. K.M. Subramanian, president, Tiruppur Exporters Association said most of the knitwear factories were operating to full capacity.

SC junks curative pleas by telecom firms on AGR dues

The SC's 2019 verdict, challenged in the curative pleas, said the telecom sector had long reaped fruits of Centre's liberalised mode of payment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed curative petitions filed by telecom service providers, including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, against the court's October 2019 judgment upholding the Department of Telecom's (DoT) move to recover adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of about ₹92,000 crore from them.

The curative petitions were dismissed in chambers by a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud,

Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai on August 30. The order was made available in public domain on Thursday. "We have gone through the petitions... In our opinion, no case is made out... The curative petitions are dismissed," the Bench said in its order.

The October 2019 verdict had said the telecom sector had long reaped the fruits of the Centre's liberalised mode of payment by revenue sharing regime with the government. Under this mechanism, the operators had to pay a certain licensing fee and spectrum usage fee to the DoT. The department calculated the fee as a percentage of the AGR.

The dispute between the telecom sector and the government over the calculation of the AGR spanned for almost two decades.

Govt. steps in to unclog exporters' shipping woes

Interventions include steps to cut shipping costs and improve empty containers' availability

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to address emerging logistical challenges to foreign trade, including container shortages, shipping delays and rising freight costs, the Centre on Thursday announced a slew of interventions to bring down shipping costs, improve the availability of empty containers, expedite export consignments' evacuation and minimise congestion at ports.

Free storage of empty containers in the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority yard upto 90 days with a reduction in loading, handling and berthing charges, and a new multi-disciplinary help desk for exporters, are among the measures formulated at an inter-ministerial parley led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs will ensure that custom clearances will be expedited by simultaneous screening of two twenty-feet containers, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said. The Civil Aviation Ministry has talked to airport operators in Delhi and Mumbai to address cargo congestion in a time-bound manner, while the Shipping Ministry is increasing container handling capacity at ports.

'Fed rate cut to have muted impact on India'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday said the impact of the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate cut of 50 basis points will be limited for India, and though it will be a positive for emerging economies in general, it cannot be construed as a "fillip for the global economy" as there are other factors at play.

"If other things were constant, the rate cut by itself should be positive because it lowers the dollar cost of capital, increases the dollar liquidity... [but] with other things not staying constant, the Fed rate cut is not the only thing that matters," he said.

V. Anantha Nageswaran

"We have geopolitical conflicts everywhere and there is an all-important election that is coming up in the USA in November, and in general, the global economy has been slowing," the CEA pointed out.

While the U.S. interest rate cut was "much awaited", Mr. Nageswaran highlighted that the implications would depend on how much of that cut was already "priced in" by the markets. "I think much of it was priced in already. So, in that sense, stock markets have moved ahead of that, and if you see the U.S. markets, they ended up in the red for the day after the rate cut was announced," he noted at the Deloitte India Government Summit.

"On balance, I would say it is positive for emerging economies, and for India and its stock market, because it was already attracting a lot of investor interest and has been doing so for the last several years, on the margins, the impact will be limited because it is not something that investor interest for India was waiting for this to happen. It's already been there," the CEA averred.

Mr. Nageswaran also dismissed concerns about private investors' reluctance and asserted that the private sector has already joined the investment party. "No matter what evidence we present, the stickiness of the belief that the private sector is yet to join the investment party refuses to go away."

"That shows the power of anecdotes over evidence, and that is human nature. But the truth is the private sector has joined the investment party... If it is unfolding slower than, let us say between 2003 and 2008, it is better. We would rather have it slower and stronger for longer, rather than swifter and shorter," he underlined.

IL&FS firm gets ₹21,000-cr. tax demand relief from ITAT

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has overturned a tax demand of approximately ₹21,000 crore on Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited (NTBCL), an IL&FS Group firm, that had built and is managing the Delhi-Noida-Delhi flyway.

The demand pertained to tax liability and penalty from FY06 to FY15 aggregating to ₹21,000 crore, including ₹10,893 crore in demand and ₹10,893 crore penalty for concealment of income and not submitting proper income details.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,185	0.29
US Dollar	83.65	0.13
Gold	75,650	3.25
Brent oil	75.06	2.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2943.15	-13.15
Adani Ports	1408.20	-20.60
Apollo Hosp	7030.25	-5.65
Asian Paints	3293.85	19.20
Axis Bank	1242.70	2.25
Bajaj Auto	11868.00	103.35
Bajaj Finserv	1890.40	2.20
Bajaj Finance	7590.35	-40.75
Bharti Airtel	1664.85	9.95
BPCL	324.45	-11.65
Britannia Ind	6134.50	11.25
Cipla	1637.70	-13.90
Coal India	477.95	-9.15
Divis Lab	5429.20	-39.95
Dr Reddys Lab	6502.55	-65.25
Eicher Motors	4864.90	14.55
Grasim Ind	2738.95	16.25
HCL Tech	1736.50	-20.00
HDFC Bank	1708.50	13.70
HDFC Life	701.50	2.70
Hero MotoCorp	6006.05	41.30
Hindalco	684.20	-1.05
Hind Unilever	2911.75	35.90
ICICI Bank	1292.00	3.65
IndusInd Bank	1484.75	4.50
Infosys	1894.20	2.05
ITC	508.25	0.90
JSW Steel	948.40	-8.30
Kotak Bank	1871.95	32.25
L&T	3683.70	-46.75
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6377.15	10.85
M&M	2797.50	-10.70
Maruti Suzuki	12351.50	147.40
NestleIndia	2634.20	37.05
NTPC	423.95	9.80
ONGC	285.25	-5.15
PowerGrid Corp	334.90	0.60
Reliance Ind	2939.35	12.45
SBI Life	1840.95	-1.50
State Bank	789.95	-2.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3525.35	-49.35
Sun Pharma	1846.05	10.05
TataConsumerProduct	1215.25	14.40
Tata Motors	967.00	4.95
Tata Steel	149.54	-1.06
TCS	4296.15	-50.00
Tech Mahindra	1595.35	-10.05
Titan	3780.95	55.60
UltraTech Cement	11627.50	-3.40
Wipro	533.35	-4.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.48	83.80
Euro	93.27	93.64
British Pound	110.76	111.20
Japanese Yen (100)	58.43	58.66
Chinese Yuan	11.82	11.86
Swiss Franc	98.75	99.14
Singapore Dollar	64.65	64.91
Canadian Dollar	61.64	61.88
Malaysian Ringitt	19.83	19.93
Australian Dollar	57.08	57.30

Source:Indian Bank

Centre approves sale of Ferro Scrap Nigam to Japanese firm for ₹320 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In what could be the first privatisation transaction in over two years, the Centre on Thursday approved the sale of MSTC subsidiary Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL), along with transfer of management control, to Konoike Transport Co. Ltd., a listed Japanese firm, for ₹320 crore.

FSNL, a 100% subsidiary of MSTC Ltd. under the Ministry of Steel, was incorporated in 1979 , and specialises in the recovery and processing of scrap from slag and refuge generated during iron and steel production. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had granted an 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of MSTC's entire stake in FSNL in October 2016.

The Alternative Mechanism, a ministerial group empowered by the CCEA, approved the highest bid for FSNL of ₹320 crore from Konoike Transport, which is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

"The transaction now moves to concluding stage. The next steps include issuing the Letter of Award, signing the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA), fulfilling the conditions precedent as specified in the SPA by respective parties, and closing the transaction," the Finance Ministry said.

In January, a plan to divest the Salem Steel Plant, a unit of SAIL, was scrapped.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
TEXT BOOK PRODUCTION & MARKETING,
KHARAVEL NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - I.

Letter No. 7086 / TBPM, Date 19.09.2024

1st Corrigendum of the Tender Notice No. 6415/TBPM, dt.29.08.2024 against Printing and Binding of NT Books and Allied books for Academic Session 2025-26 is given below:

Read as:

"The last date/closing date of Bid submission is dt.26.09.2024 at 5.00 p.m. instead of dt. 20.09.2024 at 5.00 pm.

"The last date for submission of FDR for EMD, Tender paper cost & inspection charges is dt.26.09.2024 at 5.00 p.m. instead of dt. 20.09.2024 at 5.00 pm.

"The date of opening of technical bid is dt.27.09.2024 at 11.00 AM instead of dt.21.09.2024 at 11.30 AM.

"In terms and conditions for printing and binding of NT Books, at page No-17 of Clause No. 01, the Academic Session may be read as 2025-26 instead of 2024-25.

" At Page No-20 of Clause No-31, the Academic Session may be read as 2025-26 instead of 2024-25.

All other terms & conditions are remain unchanged.

Director, Text Book Production & Marketing, BBSR

n-94: OIPR-02005/11/0012/2425

Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon
Sanitation Department
E-Tender Notice No.04/2024-25
Extension No. 01

Reference Number :- Outward No.JCMC/Sanitation/442/2024-2025 Date. 19/09/2024

Inviting E-tender From Registered Institute or Company/Agency for Work of 1. House to House Collection of Municipal Solid Waste (Dry & Wet Separately) up to Processing Plant Via Secondary Transfer Collection Centre. 2.Supply of 500 Labors for Daily Road Sweeping, Drain Cleaning etc. for 3 years Period at Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation Jalgaon Area. All Information and Details of Tender, Like Tender Form Fee, Tender Cost, EMD, Time Schedule etc available on website www.mahaetenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Commissioner
Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon

COCHIN PORT
कोचिन पत्तन प्राधिकरण
Cochin Port Authority
Cochin – 682 009 Kerala

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF VHF OPERATOR ON CONTRACT BASIS

For more details visit careers page in www.cochinport.gov.in

Sd/-
Secretary
(0484-2582113)

COFFEE BOARD
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry)
Department of Commerce
Government of India
#1, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bengaluru-560 001, Karnataka, India.
Phone: + 91- 80 - 2226 6991 - 994

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: No. Extn/P&C Cell/ICDP e-Tender-QUP/2024-25/125 Date:17.09.2024

Coffee Board, a statutory organization under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India, Head Quartered at Bengaluru has invited e-Tenders for empanelment of manufacturers or its authorized distributors for supply of pulpers, mechanical dryers suitable for use in coffee estates directly to the Coffee Growers in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and North Eastern States under back ended subsidy scheme of ICDP during 2024-25 & 2025-26. The detailed e-Tender document viz., Tender notification, Specifications, Eligibility Criterion, Crucial Date & Time etc., in this regard can be downloaded from Coffee Board's **Website –www.coffeeboard.gov.in & https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

The last date and time for submission of e-Tenders is 14th October, 2024 at 3.00 PM. The technical bids part of tender will be opened on the next day at 3.00 PM.

Sd/-
CEO & SECRETARY

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CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Hyderabad - 500007.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. 11/2024

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 27th & 30th September, 2024 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of MSc in (Chemistry / Microbiology / Biotechnology) / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering / M.Pharm / B.Sc /(SSC / 10th plus ITI) etc.

For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : E-Tender No. KWA/HO/SP-06/2024-25/EMP-6/PIPES. EMPANELMENT OF THE MANUFACTURERS OF PIPES, FITTINGS AND VALVES IN KERALA WATER AUTHORITY (Tender for Sixth List), **EMD :** Rs. 5000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 2500, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 05-10-2024, 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 8281597973

Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Chief Engineer (HRD&GI.)
KWA-JB-GL-6-613-2024-25 **Jalabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-B

No: SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-04(B)/24-25 Dt: 18.09.2024

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-04/24-25 dt 31.07.24 **"Arresting water leakages, VALF Admin bldg & Construction of room, SHSB & civil renovation works, 6C bldg at SMP & ETF area, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-021, Est. cost ₹19.20 Lakhs); **"Misc civil works at FLP, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-023, Est. cost ₹15.82 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 01.10.2024**. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813: Website: www.pspcl.in
(Cotact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Equiry No. 322/SS(D)-375/RDSS/Spares Dated: 18.09.2024

Dy. CE/Substation (Design)/TS Organization, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for 33 Nos. Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of Tubular Type Lead Acid DC Batteries of 220V-100Ah. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://gem.gov.in from 20.09.2024 (11:00 AM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://gem.gov.in

C - 714/24 76155/12/3469/2023/37830

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Selection of Contractor for Execution of Electrical HVAC and IT Works for the Renovation of Old Janasevakendra and Lobby Area at Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation	2024_SCTLT_690102_1	23-September-2024 04.00PM

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by email. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Mondipatti, Manapparai Tk, Trichy Dist. - 621 306.
Ph.: 04332 - 265101/265102

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
242523 001985	Procurement of Tyre Mounted Hydraulic Mobile Crane of Capacity 14-15 Tons Pick & Carry for TNPL Unit - II.	04.10.2024
242523 002097	Descaling agent for continuous digester for Pulpmill of TNPL Unit - II.	07.10.2024
E-Mail	242523001985 - purchase.u2@tnpl.co.in 242523002097 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites :**www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/3768/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

BESCOM invites tender for the **Enquiry No. BESCOM/2024-25/SE0193** for Selection of Service Provider for Sale of Smart Meters to prospective consumers on rate contract basis in retail outlets for arranging power supply to new connections (including temporary installations) along with Supply, Implementation, Commissioning of IT system for a period of 5 years & Maintenance of IT system for a period of 10 years in BESCOM Jurisdiction. Availability of Bid Documents on or after **23.09.2024**. Last Date for Bid submission Upto 30 days from the date of uploading of Bid Documents. The detailed notification can be obtained from the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** And Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
General Manager (Ele.,)
DAS,SG&TIC, BESCOM

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(PUNGRAIN)
Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39 C, Chandigarh

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

PUNGRAIN, invites online GeM bid for the purchase of 1,20,000 Multi layered Cross Laminated Tarpaulins (MLCL Tarpaulins) for storage of paddy during KMS 2024-25 on behalf of all State Procuring Agencies (Pungrain, PSWC, Punsup and Markfed) in the State of Punjab under two Bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.

The bid/tender documents (MTF) & other details will be available on the GeM Portal, i.e., https://gem.gov.in from 20-09-2024 to 21-10-2024. MTF will also be available on Department's website i.e. http://foodsuppb.gov.in. Bids completed in the manner prescribed in MTF should be uploaded on GEM portal upto 02:00 PM on 21-10-2024 and Technical bids will be opened on 21-10-2024 at 02:30 PM. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 27.09.2024 at 11:00 AM in hybrid mode in the Committee Room, Pungrain Head Office, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39 C, Chandigarh and through ZOOM VC Link as follows:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84575946798?pwd=wGtOsnbeyXY9UTZff7cAgazSbeTgBR.1

(Meeting ID: 845 7594 6798 Passcode: 610510)

PUNGRAIN reserves the right to scrap tender at any stage without assigning any reason and PUNGRAIN will not be liable for any costs and consequences incurred by the intending bidders. Any corrigendum / addendum will be uploaded on GeM portal and http://foodsuppb.gov.in.

NA/12/25536/2023/37842 **Managing Director, Pungrain**

BAMAKO

Jihadist attacks in Mali capital kill more than 70 and injure 200

AFP

A jihadist attack in the Malian capital Bamako on Tuesday targeting a military police training camp and a military airport left more than 70 dead and 200 wounded, one of the highest tolls suffered by the security forces in recent years. The strike was claimed by the al-Qaeda-linked Group to Support Islam and Muslims (JNIM). AFP

BERLIN

Germany plans extra €400 million military assistance to Ukraine

REUTERS

Germany is planning almost €400 million in extra military aid for Ukraine this year despite a row over budgetary constraints, according to a Finance Ministry document. Berlin has been the second-largest contributor of military aid to Ukraine after the U.S. and had already earmarked around €7.5 billion for Kyiv in 2024. AFP

TAIPEI

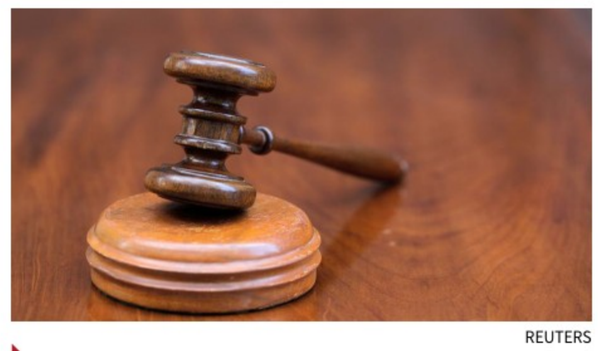
Taiwan recognises same-sex union between Chinese and Taiwanese

AFP

Same-sex Taiwanese-Chinese couples are now legally able to register their marriages in Taiwan, Taipei said, recognising cross-strait unions for the first time. Taiwan has long been at the forefront of Asia's burgeoning LGBTQ rights movement, becoming in 2019 the first place in the region to legalise marriage equality. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan court sentences Christian woman to death in blasphemy case



REUTERS

A court in Pakistan on Thursday sentenced a Christian woman to death in a blasphemy case. A case was filed under blasphemy laws against Shaughta Karan, accused of sharing derogatory material about the Prophet of Islam in a WhatsApp group in September 2020. The court also imposed a fine of Rs. 3,00,000 on her. PTI

Student ally of Bangladesh ex-PM beaten to death

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A Bangladeshi student leader was beaten to death at his university campus in an apparent reprisal for attacks on protesters during the uprising that ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last month.

Shamim Ahmed was enrolled at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka, and was a top member of the student wing of Ms. Hasina's Awami League party. He was beaten by unknown assailants on Wednesday night for leading an attack on student demonstrators at the campus in mid-July, during protests demanding Ms. Hasina's removal from office, police said.

Israeli strikes hit Hezbollah rocket launchers in Lebanon

Hassan Nasrallah calls the attacks that blew up walkie-talkies and pagers 'unprecedented' after it claimed the lives of 37 people and injured around 3,000 while overwhelming Lebanese hospitals

Agencies
BEIRUT/JERUSALEM

Israel's Army said it hit some 30 Hezbollah rocket launchers along with other "infrastructure" in air strikes carried out in Lebanon on Thursday.

"With the direction of IDF (military) intelligence, the IAF (air force) struck approximately 30 Hezbollah launchers and terrorist infrastructure sites, containing approximately 150 launcher barrels that were ready to fire projectiles toward Israeli territory," the military said.

Deadly Israeli attacks that blew up Hezbollah radios and pagers crossed all red lines, the leader of the heavily armed Lebanese movement said.

In memoriam: Hezbollah members mourn over the coffins of two of their comrades at a funeral procession in Beirut on Thursday. AP

Lebanon and Hezbollah have blamed Israel for attacks on Hezbollah's communications equipment that killed 37 people and wounded around 3,000, overwhelming Lebanese hospitals and wreaking bloody havoc on Hezbollah.

"There is no doubt that we have been subjected to a major security and military blow that is unprecedented in the history of the resistance and unprecedented in the history of Lebanon," Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said.

He said the attacks "could be considered war crimes or a declaration or war, they could be called anything and they deserve to be called anything. Of course that was the intention of the enemy."

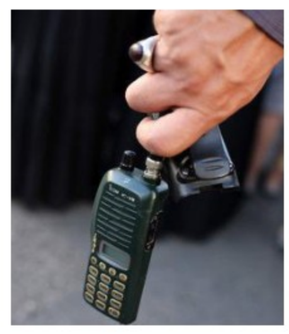
Pager trail runs from Taiwan to Lebanon via Hungary

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On Sunday, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, told his security Cabinet that he would do whatever necessary to make sure that the 70,000 Israelis displaced from the northern border villages return home. Two days later, on Tuesday, in the late afternoon, hundreds of pagers started exploding simultaneously across Lebanon and in parts of Syria. At least 12 persons were killed and over 2,800 were injured. A day later, walkie-talkies and other electronic devices exploded in Lebanon, leaving 20 more dead and at least 450 others injured.

The explosions mostly hit Hezbollah, the Shia militia group backed by Iran which has been using pagers and walkie-talkies for communication among its ranks. Hezbollah immediately blamed Israel for the attack. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its role in the explosions. But if Israel is really behind the attack, the question is how they pulled off an attack of this scale.



Hezbollah has used pagers and walkie-talkies to communicate between its members.

Taiwanese connection

Initially, there were different theories pointing to various possibilities, including cyber warfare and supply-side penetration to tamper with the devices. Most of the pagers that exploded were AR924s that carried the brand name of Gold Apollo, a Taiwan-based company. After Tuesday's explosions, Gold Apollo issued a statement, saying it was not involved in the production of the pagers in question.

The company said the AR924 model pagers were manufactured by BAC Consulting KFT, a Hungarian company. "Gold Apollo has established a long-term partnership with BAC Consulting", and it has authorised "BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in specific regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are entirely handled by BAC," the short statement said, without offering any details about the contract.

Hungarian connection

BAC, based in Budapest, operates in "environmental, political and development projects", according to the company's LinkedIn page, which has 303 followers as of Thursday. The page has no reference to the company's involvement in manufacturing electronic devices. It says BAC works to find "innovative solutions" to tackle challenges of "development, international affairs and environment". Cristiana Rosaria Bársony-Arcidiacono, a 49-year-old with a PhD in particle physics, is the CEO of the company.

According to Ms. Bársony-Arcidiacono's LinkedIn profile, she has advocated "environmental and social causes for developing and fragile countries" . She did her PG masters in SOAS, London, and a diploma in politics from the LSE. But what does a particle physics PhD with experience in the fields of environmental and developmental consulting have to do with pager manufacturing? "I don't make the pagers. I am just the intermediate. I think you got it wrong," Ms. Bársony-Arcidiacono told U.S. broadcaster *NBC* on the phone. The plot thickens.

If Gold Apollo is to be believed, the little-known Budapest-based company that claims to be working in the fields of development and environment consulting was designing and manufacturing Taiwanese pagers and selling them to Hezbollah in Lebanon and parts of Syria. Those pagers exploded at a critical juncture of the Hezbollah-Israel war.

According to a *New York Times* report, BAC was a front company of the Israeli intelligence agencies. The report says Israeli intelligence officials set up three shell companies, including BAC, which was formally registered in Hungary in 2022. Hezbollah was wary of using cell phones, fearing Israeli penetration. They turned to pagers for communication, and Israel established a company to make those pagers – with inbuilt PETN explosives, and a switch to detonate them remotely.

The back-to-back explosions have dealt a blow to Hezbollah. Israel has once again demonstrated its willingness and capability to take great risks in attacking its rivals. But with Hezbollah vowing vengeance, tensions on Israel's northern border are likely to flare up in coming days.

China will be 'high' on Quad Summit agenda: U.S.

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

China will be "high on the agenda" at the summit-level meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), comprising the U.S., India, Australia and Japan, according to White House spokesperson John Kirby.

U.S. President Joe Biden will host Quad leaders in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday. Mr. Biden will meet individually with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese of Australia and Fumio Kishida of Japan . They will also meet together to discuss "expanding cooperation across a range of critically important issues" according to the White House.

Common goals: U.S. President Joe Biden will host Quad leaders in his hometown of Wilmington in Delaware in the U.S. on Saturday. AP

"In fact, it would be irresponsible if they did not talk about the challenges that still exist in the region, caused by aggressive PRC military action, for instance, unfair trade practices, tensions over the Taiwan Strait. I have no doubt that all those issues will come up," he said.

Other agendas

Also on the agenda are health security, natural disaster response, maritime security, infrastructure, critical and emerging technologies, climate, clean energy and cyber security, according to Mr. Kirby.

Human rights

Asked by a journalist at Wednesday's White House briefing if Mr. Biden would discuss human rights with Mr. Modi, Mr. Kirby said he did not want to get ahead of the conversations but that if appropriate, Mr. Biden would do so.

"There's not a conversation that he has with foreign leaders where he does not talk about the importance of respecting human and civil rights, and that includes with Prime Minister Modi," Mr. Kirby said, adding that Mr. Biden had raised the issue previously with Mr. Modi.

"And I'm sure that as appropriate, he'll be [doing so] going forward," he said.

Also expected are announcements that demonstrate that the Quad "thrives over the long term", Mr. Kirby said on Thursday.

The group has seen commitments from Democratic and Republican Presidents.

It was revived in 2017, during the Donald Trump presidency, while Mr. Biden hosted the first leader-level meeting of the Quad in September 2021.

The summit will be the last such meeting for two of the four leaders, with Mr. Biden and Mr. Kishida announcing that they will not seek re-election.

Sport

Manchester City held by Inter Milan as PSG pinches a win over newcomer Girona

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Manchester City made a sluggish start to its Champions League campaign as it drew 0-0 against Inter Milan on Wednesday, while Paris Saint-Germain needed a last-minute goal to beat newcomer Girona.

Pep Guardiola's side failed to break down Italian champion Inter in a repeat of the 2023 final won by City. City lost Kevin De Bruyne to injury at half-time and Phil Foden fired straight at Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer with its best chance as Erling Haaland was kept quiet.

Blunder: Girona goalkeeper Gazzaniga is distraught after his fumble hands PSG the win. AFP

Henrikh Mkhitaryan could have won it for Inter when he blazed over 15 minutes from time, allowing City to extend its unbeaten run in the competition to 24 matches – one off the record set by Man United between 2007 and 2009.

It is just the second time in 42 home Champions League games under Guardiola that City has failed to score.

PSG looked as if it would also have to settle for a point against European debutant Girona. However, a goalkeeping blunder from Paulo Gazzaniga in the 90th minute resulted in Nuno Mendes' cross squirming through his grasp and handed the French champion victory.

The results: Bologna 0 drew with Shakhtar Donetsk 0; Sparta Prague 3 (Kairinen 2, Olatunji 42, Laci 58) bt RB Salzburg 0; Club Brugge 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (Gittens 76, 86, Guirassy 90+5); Celtic 5 (Scales 17, Furuhashi 47, Engels 56-pen, Maeda 70, Idah 87) bt Slovan Bratislava 1 (Wimmer 61); Man City 0 drew with Inter Milan 0; PSG 1 (Gazzaniga 90-og) bt Girona 0.

Karthi's brace helps Secretariat share honours with Odisha

MURUGAPPA GOLD CUP

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

India discard Selvam Karthi scored a brace in Central Secretariat's 2-2 draw with Hockey Odisha in the 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament on Thursday.

In the second match of the day, former champion BPCL edged out Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu 2-1.

Down by a goal twice, it was international Karthi, who came to the rescue of Central Secretariat. After Prasad Kujur's goal early in the first quarter, the Central Secretariat hit back with a series of raids but couldn't convert any of its openings. Towards the end of the second quarter, Karthi dribbled past the goalkeeper Dilip Ku Sa but his shot ended up in the side of the net.

Go-to man: Karthi rescued Central Secretariat. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The former International, however, made amends with a stinging backhander at the start of third quarter to equalise. Sudeep Minz increased the lead by converting off a corner for the Odisha team.

Karthi did it again for Central Secretariat with a powerful backhander on the run that helped his team share the spoils.

The results: Hockey Odisha 2 (Prasad Kujur 8, Sudeep Minz 43) drew with Central Secretariat 2 (Selvam Karthi 32 & 58).
BPCL 2 (Vishwas Girish 38, Tejas Chavan 54) bt HUTN 1 (B. P. Somanna 52).

TWIN PEAKS

All-rounder Ashwin achieves a rare feat in Test history

R. RAGU

R. Ashwin became the first cricketer to have more than 30 five-wicket hauls and at least 20 scores in excess of 50 (14 half-centuries and six hundreds) in the history of Test cricket. The 38-year-old reached this milestone en route his sixth Test century against Bangladesh on Thursday.

TWO TO TANGO

I was starting to tire, but Jadeja helped me in that phase: Ashwin

R. RAGU

R. Ashwin credited Ravindra Jadeja for his support during their unbroken 195-run partnership. "Jadeja was of real help. There was a point when I was starting to tire, but Jaddu helped me through that phase. He's been solid. He told me we don't have to convert twos into threes, which was useful," quipped Ashwin.

MOMENTUM SHIFT

We dominated in the morning, but the wicket is good now: Mahmud

R. RAGU

Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud said his side would look to restrict India below 400 after it let the hosts off the hook from 144 for six. "We dominated in the morning, but the wicket is very good now. The momentum has shifted, but we could bring it back with better bowling on Friday."

THUMPING VICTORY

Head on the rampage as Australia makes light of a stiff target

REUTERS

Travis Head's unbeaten 154 saw Australia post a facile seven-wick win over England in the first ODI at Trent Bridge on Thursday. **The scores:** England 315 in 49.5 overs (Duckett 95, Jacks 62, Bethell 35, Labuschagne 3/39 Zampa 3/59) lost to Australia 317/3 in 44 overs (Head 154 n.o., Labuschagne 77 n.o.). **Toss:** England.

Ashwin-Jadeja counterattack puts India in a zone of comfort

The local star notches up his sixth Test hundred while putting on an unfinished stand of 195 with fellow spin all-rounder to reclaim the advantage after Bangladesh pacer Mahmud's early damage and a mid-innings stutter

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

As Thursday ebbed, two of Chennai's favourite sons, one with a strong umbilical cord and the other adopted through sheer affection, joined forces and bolstered India against Bangladesh in the first Test that commenced here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

Local boy R. Ashwin, with a splendid century (102 batting, 112b, 10x4, 2x6), and Chennai Super Kings' star Ravindra Jadeja (86 batting), used their bats to good effect and built upon the earlier work of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant. Ashwin and Jadeja's unfinished 195-run seventh-wicket partnership offered a nice platform to the host.

At close, India posted 339 for six in the first innings, a far better position than the first session horrors inflicted by seamer Hasan Mahmud. Later in the afternoon when another bout of retreating batters shimmered into view, Ashwin and Jadeja linked together at 144 for six.

Terrific shots

The duo buckled down and soon with some terrific shots enthused the crowd. Ashwin drove and punched, and when Shakib Al Hasan came on, a six was essayed. The centurion's confidence was reflected through Jadeja too as he drilled a few straight down the ground as India winged its way back.

In the morning while Chennai stirred awake under overcast skies, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto won the toss and opted to field. Openers Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma remained watchful as patience reigned. Taskin Ahmed bent his back but it was Mahmud, who impressed. The seamer bowled at a length that tapped into the batter's inner Hamlet: to play or not to play!

Inevitable

Mahmud's rewards were inevitable as skipper Rohit edged one that straightened. A stifled Shubman Gill dallied with one going down the leg-side and at 10.08 a.m., the Chepauk fans cheered with abandon. A reflex-applause earlier reserved for Sachin Tendulkar at number four was now bequeathed to Virat Kohli.

The latter, however, failed to check a drive off Mahmud, the edge thudded into wicket-keeper Litton Das's gloves and India was hobbling at 34 for three in 9.2 overs.

Pant was pressed into service and even as Nahid Rana kept bouncing, the batters slowly found their groove. Jaiswal drove on either side, Pant slashed and pulled and the southpaws were at ease against off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz. A 62-run fourth-wicket partnership took shape and India moved to 88 for three at lunch.

After the break, Pant got into an awkward tangle against Mahmud, flung his hands, and walked away seething with self-loathing. Jaiswal then found an ally in K.L. Rahul and just as the two sprouted roots, the former edged Nahid. The speedster, often erratic, found his line and scalped Jaiswal (56).

Immediately Rahul followed suit, finding an agile Zakir Hasan at short-leg while the batter lunged forward to Mehidy.

The stage was set for Ashwin and Jadeja's rescue act. On Wednesday, Gautam Gambhir said that not enough credit is given to these spin all-rounders. In a sense, the two echoed their coach's views while the sun finally peeped into the venue.

Making merry: Ashwin took the attack to the Bangladesh bowlers with some clean hitting. R. RAGU

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Shadman b Nahid 56 *(118b, 9x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Najmul b Mahmud 6 *(19b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill c Litton b Mahmud 0 *(8b)*, Virat Kohli c Litton b Mahmud 6 *(6b)*, Rishabh Pant c Litton b Mahmud 39 *(52b, 6x4)*, K.L. Rahul c Zakir b Miraz 16 *(52b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (batting) 86 *(117b, 10x4, 2x6)*, R. Ashwin (batting) 102 *(112b, 10x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-18, lb-5, nb-4, w-1): 28; Total (for six wkts. in 80 overs): 339.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Rohit, 5.1 overs), 2-28 (Gill, 7.3), 3-34 (Kohli, 9.2), 4-96 (Pant, 25.3), 5-144 (Jaiswal, 41.4), 6-144 (Rahul, 42.2).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Taskin 15-1-47-0, Mahmud 18-4-58-4, Nahid 17-2-80-1, Miraz 22-2-77-1, Shakib 8-0-50-0, Mominul 1-0-4-0.

Toss: Bangladesh.

'Playing in challenging conditions will help'

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Yashasvi Jaiswal's fighting half-century helped India recover from an early setback in the first session before R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja's rearguard action on day one of the first Test.

Damp wicket

"Initially, I thought the ball was moving and seaming a bit, and the wicket was damp. So, we took our time, but as you can see from the last session, we scored quite well, and I think we are in a good position at the moment," said Jaiswal at the end of the day's play.

Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant stitched a 62-run partnership for the fourth wicket, and the opener explained that the duo tried to stay positive despite being in a tricky position.

"I think we were just talking about how we can use our feet, and we were trying if there is a loose ball, we will try to score runs," the 22-year-old explained.

"I think the wicket was a bit helpful for the bowlers initially, and if you look at the weather, it was a bit cloudy. They bowled well, but at times, they also gave loose balls which allowed us to score runs."

The opener said he enjoyed the challenging conditions and felt it would prepare him for the future.

"I felt it was amazing to go out there and play in these conditions. It will make me stronger."

Ashwin's love affair with Chepauk continues

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

R. Ashwin has been having wonderful memories at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium recently.

Last month, he guided TNPL side Dindigul Dragons to its maiden title with crucial knocks (69 n.o. off 30 balls, Qualifier 2; 52 off 46 balls, Final).

On Thursday, he made it even more special, completing his sixth Test century and second in as many Tests at this venue.

"This is a ground I completely love to play cricket in. It's given me a lot of wonderful memories," Ashwin said to the host broadcaster after the day's play.

The 38-year-old said the work he had put in during the TNPL helped him on Thursday.

"It helps that I'm coming off a T20 tournament where I worked quite a bit on batting and playing shots.

"On a surface like this with a bit of spice, if you're going after the ball, you might as well go after it hard like Rishabh (Pant) does," said Ashwin.

Ashwin's Super Six

The off-spinning allrounder's Test centuries and India's position when he took guard

103 (118b, 15x4, 2x6) **vs West Indies**, Mumbai, 2011 (331 for six - the score when Ashwin walked in)

124 (210b, 11x4) **vs West Indies**, Kolkata, 2013 (156 for six)

113 (253b, 12x4) **vs West Indies**, North Sound, 2016 (236 for four)

118 (297b, 6x4, 1x6) **vs West Indies,** Gros Islet, 2016 (87 for four)

106 (148b, 14x4, 1x6) **vs England**, Chennai, 2021 (106 for six)

102 batting (112b, 10x4, 2x6) **vs Bangladesh,** Chennai, 2024 (144 for six)

Chhetri nets a brace in Bengaluru FC's facile win

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A brace from Sunil Chhetri powered Bengaluru FC (BFC) to a 3-0 win over Hyderabad FC in their Indian Super League (ISL) match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Thursday.

The outing was doubly special for Chhetri, as he joined Bartholomew Ogbeche as the joint all-time leading goal-scorer (63 goals) in ISL history. Chhetri took 151 outings to reach the summit, while Nigerian Ogbeche did it in 98 games.

BFC gained its second win in as many matches, while Hyderabad FC slipped in its tournament opener.

BFC set the pace in the fifth minute, when Vinith Venkatesh floated in a corner at the far post. Centreback Rahul Bheke lurked unmarked, and found the net with a clean volley.

Chhetri, who came on as a substitute in the 55th minute, put the outing to bed by converting a late penalty. Chhetri stepped up to take the spot-kick after Naorem Roshan was brought down in the box.

Deep into injury-time, the home faithful came alive again when Chhetri headed in an assist from Edgar Mendez.

Hyderabad FC, with an all-Indian starting eleven, did manage to challenge BFC by creating plenty of chances. Devendra Murgaonkar could have made it 1-1, but blasted the ball over the bar. Abdul Rabeeh kept the BFC defence guessing with dangerous solo efforts.

Former BFC player Lenny Rodrigues and Abhijith Pa made a few good runs, but lacked composure in the final third.

The result: BFC 3 (Rahul Bheke 5, Sunil Chhetri 85, 90+4) bt Hyderabad FC 0.

Double delight: Chhetri heads in his second goal to join Ogbeche as the all-time leading goal-scorer in ISL history. K. MURALI KUMAR

Indian men cruise, women stumble

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Sports Bureau

India's men overcame one of their strongest opponents at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest in some style on Thursday. They crushed Iran 3.5-0.5 in the eighth round to retain their sole lead position with just three rounds remaining.

D. Gukesh, fresh from his brilliant win against Wei Yi of China in the previous round, defeated Iran Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces.

On the second board, R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Amin Tabatabaei.

Arjun Erigaisi was back to his winning ways, defeating Bardiya Daneshvar on third board, while Vidit Gujrathi outwitted Pouya Idani.

The magnificent run of the top-seeded Indian women, however, finally came to an end. They lost to Poland 1.5-2.5 in a match that saw fortunes fluctuate wildly. India was off to a bad start, with Monika Socko defeating R. Vaishali on the second board. But, Divya Deshmukh made it 1-1 with her win on the third board against Aleksandra Maltsevskaya.

Now, it all depended on the first and fourth boards. D. Harika lost to Alina Kashlinskaya, for her third defeat in the tournament.

India needed Vantika Agrawal to beat Alicja Sliwicka to draw the match, but the game was drawn giving Poles the match and a share of the lead with India and Kazakhstan.

Vidit...good win. FIDE

Hakkinen chuffed at McLaren's progress

Kavita Menon
CHENNAI

"What McLaren is doing at the moment is perfect," said Mika Hakkinen, referring to his former team eyeing its first Constructors' title in Formula One since 1998.

"Being a McLaren brand ambassador, I'm very happy to see how the team has been developing over the years, not just this season but the last 5-6 years," said the 55-year-old.

Hakkinen weighed in on the battle between McLaren's Lando Norris and defending champion Max Verstappen (Red Bull). "Mathematically, he (Lando) still has a chance to win the title. It's great that the team has given him a chance to achieve it," he said.

The two-time F1 champion was in the city to inaugurate the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) at the Madras International Circuit on Thursday. Hakkinen's F1 journey lasted a decade (1991-2001) but what set his legacy in stone was his intense rivalry with seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher. It was during this period that the Finnish driver won both his World crowns (1998 & '99).

He also forged memorable partnerships with several legends, including Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell, both at McLaren.

Not only does Hakkinen share the same name as the newly-opened track but he also has a strong bond with karting. He raced in karts for 10 years before climbing the ladder, which he deemed a pivotal experience in learning how to adapt and deal with the pressure of competing.

The Flying Finn hails from a nation that still doesn't have an F1 track but has a robust karting ecosystem which has produced three F1 World Champions (Keke Rosberg, 1982; Hakkinen, and Kimi Raikkonen, 2007).

Off we go: Hakkinen at the launch along with Vicky and Karun Chandhok, Akbar Ibrahim, Narain Karthikeyan, and Ajit Thomas.

INBRIEF

Latham, Williamson half-tons take Kiwis to 255/4

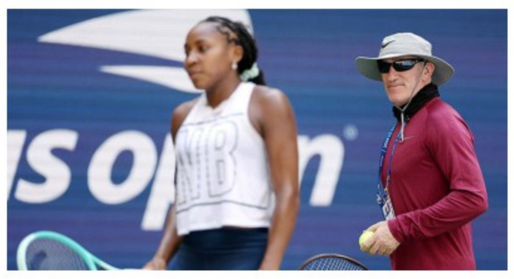
Half-centuries from Tom Latham and Kane Williamson put New Zealand at 255 for four and in hot pursuit of Sri Lanka on day two of the first Test on Thursday. The Black Caps trailed by 50 at stumps in Galle with Daryl Mitchell (41) and Tom Blundell (18) to resume in the morning.

The scores: Sri Lanka 303 in 91.5 overs (Chandimal 30, Mathews 36, Kamindu Mendis 114, Kusal Mendis 50; O'Rourke 5/55) vs New Zealand 255/4 in 72 overs (Latham 70, Williamson 50, Ravindra 39, Mitchell 41 batting).

Afghanistan downs an inexperienced SA in first ODI

Afghanistan carved out a six-wicket victory over an inexperienced South Africa in the first ODI of the three-match series at Sharjah on Wednesday.

The scores: South Africa 106 in 33.3 overs (Mulder 52, Farooqi 4/35, Ghazanfar 3/20) lost to Afghanistan 107/4 in 26 overs (Naib 34 n.o.).



Gauff splits with Gilbert as coach after 14-month run

Coco Gauff, last year's US Open champion, and coach Brad Gilbert announced on Wednesday that they have split after 14 months together. The move comes after the 20-year-old American was ousted in the round-of-16 at Wimbledon, the Paris Olympics, the WTA Toronto event and the US Open.

Punjab clinches Hockey India junior men's National title

Punjab edged out Uttar Pradesh 4-3 in the shoot-out to win the 14th Hockey India junior men's National in Jalandhar on Thursday. Sukhwinder Singh (fifth minute), Jarman Singh (33), and Jobanpreet Singh (39) found the back of the net for Punjab, while Ajeet Yadav (31), Suraj Pal (48) and Akash Pal (54) scored for Uttar Pradesh. In the shootout, UP's Akash Pal, Nitish Bhardwaj, and Ajeet Yadav converted while for Punjab, Japnit Singh, Sukhwinder Singh, Jarman Singh and Lovenoor Singh all scored. In third-place match, Haryana beat Karnataka 5-0.

Indian lifter Ajaya strikes gold in C'wealth championships

Indian weightlifter Valluri Ajaya Babu produced a record-breaking performance to clinch the gold in the men's 81kg junior and senior categories at the Commonwealth Championships in Suva on Thursday. He lifted 326kg (147kg+179kg) and set a Commonwealth record in clean and jerk in the 81kg junior category. Sairaj Pardeshi bagged the youth gold in the same category while finishing second in the junior section behind Ajaya Babu.

Malvika beats Kristy to enter China Open quarterfinals

Malvika Bansod entered her maiden Super 1000 quarterfinal after eking out a hard-fought win over the higher-ranked Kristy Gilmour in the China Open at Changzhou on Thursday. Malvika, ranked 43rd, toiled hard for one hour and five minutes before pulling off a 21-17, 19-21, 21-16 win over Kristy of Scotland in a women's singles round-of-16 contest.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: China Open, Sports 18-2 & JioCinema, 7.30 a.m. onwards.
India vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 2, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Duleep Trophy: Day 2, Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
Tennis: Laver Cup, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 4 p.m. onwards.
Afghanistan vs South Africa: 2nd ODI, Eurosport (SD & HD) & FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday).
Serie A: gxr.world, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Saturday).

Standing strong: Rawat displayed technique, timing, grit and skills en route his sixth First Class hundred. FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Plucky Rawat helps India-A fight back

Kamboj, Gaurav and Vyshak put the new ball and fresh wicket to good use early in the day for India-C, bowling a probing line and length

DULEEP TROPHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ANANTAPUR

Under a blue sky, in front of an excellent crowd, India-A and India-C produced an engrossing day of cricket.

The runs may have been hard to come by – at under three an over for much of the time – but those among the spectators who view the game as something more than the big hits must have enjoyed the opening day of the Duleep Trophy match. They would have particularly appreciated an exceptional knock under pressure by a young left-hander.

Shashwat Rawat displayed technique, timing, grit and skills, as he rescued his side from a disastrous collapse up front. The 23-year-old's sixth First Class hundred (122 batting, 235b, 15x4) helped India-A reach 224 for seven at stumps after being put into bat by India-C at the Rural Development Trust Stadium on Thursday.

Superb bowling with the new ball from the seaming trio of Anshul Kamboj, Gaurav Yadav and Vyshak Vijaykumar had reduced India-A to 36 for five. They exploited the freshness of the wicket and bowled at probing line and length.

Kamboj, who had taken eight for 69 against India-B in the last match, got good bounce. He struck twice in successive overs to get rid of the openers Pratham Singh and Mayank Agarwal; the former gave a catch towards square-leg, the latter an inside edge behind the stumps.

India-A was also being stifled by the miserly Gaurav, whose figures at one stage read 8-5-5-0. Tilak Varma was looking good against a relentless attack on a responsive track, but he was run out.

Rawat also watched Kumar Kushagra falling to a ball that moved away from Vyshak.

He was joined by Shams Mulani, who loves a crisis. The Mumbai all-rounder made a fine 44 (76b, 5x4, 1x6) and put on 87 for the sixth wicket. After he was brilliantly caught at gully off Gaurav, Rawat took over the responsibility.

He found an able ally in Avesh Khan and their unbroken eighth wicket is so far worth 70. The spectators might be tempted to return for the second day's play to watch more of Rawat, especially his straight and off drives.

The scores:
India-A: Pratham Singh c Sai Sudharsan b Kamboj 6, Mayank Agarwal c Kishan b Kamboj 6, Tilak Varma run out 5, Riyan Parag c Sai Sudharsan b Vyshak 2, Shashwat Rawat (batting) 122, Kumar Kushagra c Kishan b Vyshak 0, Shams Mulani c Patidar b Gaurav 44, Tanush Kotian c Indrajith b Kamboj 10, Avesh Khan (batting) 16; Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-2, w-2) 13; Total (for seven wkts. in 77 overs): 224.
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-14, 3-17, 4-35, 5-36, 6-123, 7-154.
India-C bowling: Kamboj 14-2-40-3, Gaurav 17-7-46-1, Vyshak 15-1-33-2, Narang 21-0-58-0, Suthar 10-1-38-0.
Toss: India-C.

Samson flexes his muscles to shore up India-D

Abhishek Saini
ANANTAPUR

Hitting away: Samson uncorked a repertoire of shots during his delightful knock. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Sanju Samson (89 batting, 83b, 10x4, 3x6) prevented a strong start from slipping away and secured India-D the bragging rights on the opening day of its third-round Duleep Trophy fixture against India-B at the Rural Development Trust Stadium B-ground on Thursday.

Designated to arrest his team's mini-slide from 173 for two to 175 for four, the Kerala batter cut to the chase off his second delivery, punching leg-spinner Rahul Chahar through extra cover.

Samson was unforgiving of width which Mukesh Kumar learnt when he was packed through point with a square drive and cut.

He left room for the audacious too, upper-cutting Navdeep Saini over the wicket-keeper in a 12-run over. He breached the fence through mid-wicket in Saini's next over to secure a 49-ball half century.

Samson, however, saved the highlight for off-spinner Washington Sundar, who was dispatched for 16 runs in one over via an inside-out loft for four runs, and two sixes clearing covers and long-off. Saransh Jain accompanied Samson and got India-D to 306 for five at stumps.

Century opening stand
Samson's effort proved consolidation on the 105-run opening wicket partnership between Devdutt Padikkal (50, 95b, 8x4) and K.S. Bharat (52, 105b, 9x4), which otherwise looked to be going in vain when Chahar accounted for Nishant Sindhu and Shreyas Iyer in consecutive overs.

Padikkal and Bharat survived umpteen play-and-misses outside the off-stump as Mukesh, Avasthi and Saini got the ball to move off the surface in the first hour.

The early caution gave way to intent when Nitish Kumar Reddy went too full in length. India-B was convinced it had the southpaw when Suryakumar Yadav pouched his edge at second slip off Saini. A third-umpire check, though, stated the ball had bounced in front of the cordon.

Padikkal eventually squandered his start when he was caught behind fishing way outside the off against Saini.

Bounced out
Bharat's stay was ended by a Mukesh bouncer that took his glove and presented itself to the wicketkeeper.

Ricky Bhui (56, 89b, 8x4) continued his rich vein of form in the tournament and carried the momentum until he could not resist swatting a half-tracker from Chahar and holing out to mid-on.

The scores:
India-D — 1st innings: Devdutt Padikkal c Jagadeesan b Saini 50, K.S. Bharat c Jagadeesan b Mukesh 52, Ricky Bhui c Saini b Chahar 56, Nishant Sindhu c Prabhudessai b Chahar 19, Shreyas Iyer c Nitish b Chahar 0, Sanju Samson (batting) 89, Saransh Jain (batting) 26; Extras (b-2, w-2, lb-2, nb-8): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 77 overs): 306.
Fall of wickets: 1-105, 2-119, 3-173, 4-175, 5-219.
India-B bowling: Mukesh 16-4-37-1, Avasthi 15-1-64-0, Nitish 10-1-54-0, Saini 13-2-51-1, Chahar 13-1-60-3, Washington 7-0-27-0, Musheer 3-0-9-0.
Toss: India-B.

Nagal demanded $50,000 to play for India; 'standard practice' says the player

TENNIS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The AITA on Thursday claimed that Sumit Nagal demanded an annual fee of $50,000 to play Davis Cup ties for India but the country's top singles player defended himself, saying it is "standard practice" for athletes to be paid for their services. AITA, on Tuesday, made its displeasure clear by saying the country's top players, including Nagal, Yuki Bhambri and Sasikumar Mukund, refused national duty.

"You tell me why should a player be asking for money to play for the country. He had demanded an annual fee of $50,000 and said if he is not paid, he will not play," Dhupar said

"Let the country decide if it is right or not. Then, it is the decision of the government and everybody. The players are also paid by TOPS. And it's not that they don't get paid for playing the Davis Cup. They do get paid," Dhupar insisted.

For a World Group I tie, AITA gets around ₹30 lakh and 70% of it is distributed among the participating players while the remaining 30% is kept by the national federation to manage administrative expenditure. "No other pla yer asked for additional money over and above their share of the ITF prize money."

Nagal did not deny the AITA claim as he put his defence through a statement on social media.

"Regarding compensation, I want to clarify that it is standard practice in professional sports for athletes to be compensated for their participation in events, even when representing their country.

"This is not about personal gain. My discussions with AITA and the Davis Cup Captain are confidential and I would not like to indulge in any speculation about this," he wrote in his statement.

ROUND-UP

Sachin hits ton as Maharashtra piles it on

BENGALURU: Sachin Dhas scored 102 as Maharashtra made 320 for six at stumps on day one of its KSCA-Dr. Capt. Thimmappaiah memorial tournament semifinal versus KSCA Secretary's XI at Alur grounds on Thursday.
The scores (semifinals): Maharashtra 320/6 in 89 overs (Murtaza Trunkwala 48, Sachin Dhas 102, Ankeet Bawane 42, Nikhil Naik 64 n.o.) vs. KSCA Secretary's XI; Madhya Pradesh 259/5 in 90 overs (Harsh Gawli 121 n.o., Kanishk Dubey 27, Shubham Sharma 26, Harpreet Singh 53) vs. Baroda.

Hockey Karnataka trials on Sept. 23

Hockey Karnataka will conduct trials on September 23 (9.30 a.m. onwards) at the hockey stadium to select State team for the 14th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National, scheduled in Hyderabad from Oct. 12 to 22. Those born on or after Jan. 1, 2008 are eligible.

Anwar gets PSC nod to play for East Bengal

India defender Anwar Ali, on Thursday, got interim relief from the Player Status Committee (PSC) of the AIFF , allowing him to play for East Bengal in the ISL this season. *Sportstar* understands the decision on the other parties, East Bengal, Delhi FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant, is yet to be taken which will be clear around Sept. 30. "Yes, the player was given a NOC and he is free to play for his current club," Sarim Naved, Anwar's lawyer told *Sportstar*.

Mayne Magic obliges

RACING

MYSURU: Kishan Thomas trained Mayne Magic (G. Vivek up), won the H.H. Sri Chamaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday (Sept 19). The winner is owned by Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne.
THE RESULTS:
1. ECLIPSE PLATE: DEEMED TO FIRE (Kiran Rai) 1, Mystical Merlin (Shivam) 2, City Of Hustle (A. Bandaal) 3 and Anushtubha (Ayaz Khan) 4. 2-1/4, 2 and 3/4. 1m, 12.98s. ₹29 (w), 14, 18 and 15 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 39, FP: 224, Q: 193, Trinella: 911, Exacta: 12,363. Favourite: Eco System. Owner and trainer: Mr. Vikram Appachu.
2. KASARGOD PLATE: RING MASTER (Sai Kiran) 1, Irish Rockstar (Akshay K) 2, Super Marvella (G. Vivek) 3 and Habibti (Antony) 4. 5, 1-1/2 and Nose. 1m, 52.01s. ₹207 (w), 28, 11 and 12 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 51, FP: 1,366, Q: 431, Trinella: 2,317, Exacta: 11,480. Favourite: Super Marvella. Owner: Mr. S. Roopesh. Trainer: Azhar Ali.
3. B.A. NANAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY: TRIPITAKA (G. Vivek) 1, Vijaya Falcon (Sai Kiran) 2, Auspicious Queen (Angad) 3 and Eddie The Eagle (Koshi K) 4. Not run: Exuberance, Ricardo and Rapidus. Lnk, 3-1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 11.86s. ₹21 (w), 13 and 17 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 41, FP: 113, Q: 78, Trinella: 169, Exacta: 447. Favourite: Auspicious Queen. Owners: Mrs. Mahima Shailesh, M/s. Sans Craintes Stud Farm [p] Ltd & Dr. P. Dayananda Pai. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.
4. H.H. SRI CHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY: MAYNE MAGIC (G. Vivek) 1, Carter (L.A. Rozario) 2, To Hot To Touch (Dhanu S) 3 and Emphatic (S.J. Moulin) 4. Not run: Stentorian. 2-1/2, Nk and Lnk. 1m, 12.33s. ₹16 (w), 11, 32 and 22 (p), SHP: 82, THP: 33, FP: 230, Q: 194, Trinella: 1,070, Exacta: 6,435. Favourite: Mayne Magic. Owners: Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.
5. FLEET INDIAN PLATE: ARMORY (M. Rajesh K) 1, Free To Play (G. Vivek) 2, Ashwa Vedha (M. Prabhakaran) 3 and Mazal Tov (Antony) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and Hd. 1m, 36.48s. ₹39 (w), 14, 14 and 35 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 82, FP: 309, Q: 142, Trinella: 6,842, Exacta: 14,301. Favourite: Mazal Tov. Owner: Mr. B.K. Reethan. Trainer: Narayana Godwa.
6. FAIR WOOD PLATE: RAISE A BUCK (Antony) 1, Heroism (Faiz) 2, Natural Speed (G. Vivek) 3 and Sir Calculus (Shivam) 4. 5-3/4, 3 and 2-1/2. 1m, 22.95s. ₹16 (w), 10, 12 and 11 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 35, FP: 35, Q: 63, Trinella: 132, Exacta: 1,190. Favourite: Raise A Buck. Owners: Mrs. G.K. Harini & Mr. Rakesh. Trainer: Rakesh.
Jackpot: ₹10,789 (carried over); Mini Jackpot: 1,393 (carried over); Treble (i): 528 (carried over); (ii): 423 (two tkts).

Excellent Lass primed to deliver in Mysore 1000 Guineas

MYSURU: Excellent Lass, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Mysore 1000 Guineas 2024 (1,600m), the first classic event of the season to be held here on Friday (Sept. 20).
There will be no false rails.

1 SIDAPUR PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Sea Jack (5) Saddam H 61.5, 2. One Diamond (8) Faiz 61, 3. Cool Winter (10) Gautam Raj 59.5, 4. Nishk (9) Phabhu K 59.5, 5. Reap The Bounty (1) A. Bandaal 59.5, 6. Sand Castles (11) P. Sai Kumar 59.5, 7. Sky Storm (7) Kiran Rai 59.5, 8. Theas Gamble (15) Abhishek Mhatre 59.5, 9. Pettes Love (2) Antony 58.5, 10. Fifty Grand (13) J. Paswan 57.5, 11. Fleet Tactical (12) Angad 57, 12. Gentleman's Word (14) Sai Kiran 55, 13. Masters Mind (6) Madhu Sudhan 53.5, 14. Squanto (3) M. Rajesh K 52.5 and 15. D United (4) R. Shiva K 52.
1. PETTES LOVE, 2. SAND CASTLES, 3. SKY STORM

2 PANCHGANI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Natural Hunter (10) Shyam K 60, 2. Friya (8) K. Rajesh 55.5, 3. Eiffel Tower (9) Koshi K 54.5, 4. Perfect Heart (4) M. Prabhakaran 54.5, 5. Queen Of Comebaks (6) Faiz 54, 6. What Is This (2) Kiran Rai 54, 7. Empyrian (3) S. Imran 52.5, 8. Knotty Methods (5) R. Girish 52.5, 9. Ankush (1) Angad 50.5 and 10. Bundelkhand Queen (7) S. Shareef 50.5.
1. ANKUSH, 2. PERFECT HEART, 3. FRIYA

3 PSYCHIC STRENGTH PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Natural One (5) G. Vivek 62.5, 2. Magic Circle (9) M. Chandrashekar 60, 3. Dornish (8) Akash Agarwal 59, 4. Minx (1) M. Rajesh K 58, 5. N R I Touch (4) Antony 57.5, 6. Dalhousie (6) Jagadeesh 55.5, 7. I Can (-) (-) 55.5, 8. Jannat (3) Afsar Khan 55.5, 9. Free Spirited (2) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 10. Coyote Girl (10) Dhanu S 53.5, 11. Sultan Sword (13) R. Shiva K 53, 12. Code Of Honour (12) Madhu Sudhan 52.5 and 13. Article Fifteen (11) A. Bandaal 51.5.
1. NATURAL ONE, 2. COYOTE GIRL, 3. N R I TOUCH

4 DR. M.A.M RAMASWAMY TROPHY (1,600m), rated 60 & above, 3-30: 1. D Gold Star (5) S. Brahmmesh 60, 2. Galahad (4) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Ferretti (2) G. Vivek 58.5, 4. Mystic Bond (3) Dhanu S 58.5, 5. Philosophy (9) Antony 58, 6. Splendido (7) S.J. Moulin 56.5, 7. Athulya (1) Koshi K 55.5, 8. Cavarozzi (6) L.A. Rozario 55.5 and 9. Aabushan (8) Angad 53.
1. GALAHAD, 2. PHILOSOPHY, 3. FERRETTI

5 MYSORE 1000 GUINEAS 2024 (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Chotipari (3) Sai Kiran 56, 2. Excellent Lass (5) Suraj 56, 3. Finley (4) Akshay K 56, 4. Joon (1) Koshi K 56 and 5. Sherouk (2) G. Vivek 56.
1. EXCELLENT LASS, 2. FINLEY

6 ORIGINAL VEL RACING TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-30: 1. Court Jester (5) Faiz 62, 2. Moonlight Queen (3) J. Paswan 61.5, 3. Seolfor Bullet (9) Akshay K 60.5, 4. Sparking Night (11) G. Vivek 58, 5. Wellington (6) R. Shiva K 56.5, 6. Kensington Court (1) Kiran Rai 55, 7. Miraculous Girl (2) Gautam Raj 54.5, 8. Trump Baby (8) Ayaz Khan 53, 9. Emerald Queen (10) Dhanu S 52.5, 10. Twilight Fame (7) M. Rajesh K 51 and 11. Seoul (4) A. Bandaal 50.
1. SEOLFOR BULLET, 2. SPARKLING NIGHT, 3. COURT JESTER

7 PANCHGANI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Drisana (-) (-) 62.5, 2. Natural Tornado (5) Shyam K 62, 3. Worldly Wise (2) Rahil Akhtar 60, 4. Gilded Butterfly (3) Md. Mushraf 58.5, 5. Infiniteposibility (7) M. Rajesh K 55.5, 6. Revelator (8) Angad 55.5, 7. Country Magic (6) Salman Khan 55, 8. Nevershow Weakness (10) M. Prabhakaran 55, 9. Coorg General (1) Dhanu S 54.5 and 10. D Golden Cup (4) S. Shareef 54.
1. INFINITEPOSIBILITY, 2. COORG GENERAL, 3. D GOLDEN CUP
Day's best: **GALAHAD**
Double: **EXCELLENT LASS – SEOLFOR BULLET**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

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